



NEET dakedo Hello Work ni Ittara Isekai ni Tsuretekareta vol.5

*I'm a NEET but When I Went to Hello Work I Got Taken to Another
World*

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[Novel Updates](#)

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Illustrations



「おヌシ……何者じゃ？」

バレた!? と一瞬思ったが、
バレていたらこんな質問しないと思い直す。





Chapter 1: Day Before Departure

It's finally the day before the trip once my hellish training that lasted for a week with Sergeant-dono is finished.

We took around 3 weeks around the forest to earn experience points. This week is supposed to be a holiday for us, yet here I am, left completely exhausted. This is because I didn't get a break at all. I don't know if it's fine to start a two-week trip from tomorrow.....

While I got trained into a pulp by Sergeant-dono, my wives have done proper jobs and found a merchant who is heading towards Nania-san's village.

For today's meeting, everyone came back from Adventurer Guild quickly.

“Here, walk properly.”

Ellie woke me up angrily. I don't know who is it, but why coming here early in the morning. Perhaps it's already high noon. I just revived, but I'm still pretty much fatigued.

“There are still some wounds remaining from the special training. Ah~ give me 5 more hours to rest please.”

I had special training with Sergeant-dono every day. After that, I get back, eat some rice, jump into the bath and spent time with my wives. By the time I sleep, it's already too late. My physical strength is sapped, and the lack of sleep makes it worse.

“There is no way I can sign the contract without a leader around. I already mentioned this to you yesterday. After we returned I'll let you go to bed again, so please walk properly for now.”

Is that so?

I don't think I ever heard about it before, but it's fine as long we can get the carriage ready.

“Why do we need a contract in the first place? We can’t straight away get on?”

“That’s how we negotiated it. Instead of paying for the fare, we’ll act as an escort.”

“Another night watch again? I believe I’m going to feel sleepy again tomorrow.”

“It’s not a night watch job. Our contract stated that we only get to work when there is an enemy coming. Good enough?”

“Then it’s fine.”

Is it okay for me to go home already? I am seriously sleepy.

A few adventurers were already waiting when we arrived at the meeting room on the second floor of the Adventurer Guild.

“This is bad, I’m extremely sleepy. Sleepy, sleepy.”

I sneakily took a glance at Ellie.

“Try a little harder, please. I’m going to do all the talking, so Masaru just stay there.”

“I understand. I’m counting on you.”

I settle down on the chair. I desperately hold myself back from sleeping. Every so often Ellie will give a jab at my feet so I’m kept awake.

An old man with a whisker in front of me is talking about something. I wonder if this is the part where I should get involved.

“Well then, shall we go to the training grounds?”

Training grounds? I wonder what this guy is talking about.

“Here, stand up. Seriously. Are you okay?”

Ellie pulled my arm up.

“I am sleepy. Can I go home already?”

“Do you even process what’s happening?”

“I thought that all decision will be made by Ellie.”

“Fabio-san want to see Masaru’s skills.”

“Hmm?”

“You’re going to have a fight now, you know?”

“Who?”

“You, Masaru.”

“With who?”

“With Fabio-san.”

“Who is Fabio?”

“The guy who was sitting in front of Masaru.”

“Ah, that beardy.”

“That’s right. Are you okay?”

“Sleepy.”

“Please wake up this instant!”

My head got hit. Anyways, when I said I’m sleepy, I’m sleepy.

The main ground is still closed as the final day of the beginner training session is still ongoing today. So, everyone is gathered in the sub-training ground. The whiskered face has already warmed up with wooden sword. The whiskered face is taller by about one head than me, and he also has muscles mass corresponding to a solid body.

Although he looks strong, by the way he is swinging his sword; he is at intermediate class at most. Although I’m unsure about it, it’s

clear to me whether someone is strong or weak. I don't know how to explain it, but strong people usually behave differently.

Sati handed to me the wooden sword. Since I'm used to practice with Sergeant-dono by using an iron sword all the time, this wooden sword feels so light. It feels less refined.

The whiskered face readied his sword with a grin. He looks disgusting with that beard. In short, he is taunting me. I guess that's what he's doing. I'm sure he is jealous of me with four wives.

Even everyone is so cute!

"Don't you need to wear an armour?"

The whiskered face asked. By the way, right now I'm wearing my casual wear, without a shield. It's troublesome to wear an armour now. Maybe I'll go with a shield.

"This is enough."

I cast a glance at his shrewd face casually as I take out the shield.

"What the? You really won't wear them?"

He is in a reachable distance. So, I listened to the whiskered face while yawning.

I don't mean to provoke him. I'm just that sleepy.

"I'm coming."

I saw the whiskered face coming and striking at me gently. I don't even need to activate my Mind's Eye and Evasion works just fine. While thinking about how hard it was to avoid Sergeant-dono attacks, I casually dodge the whiskered face attack.

Although his attack is sharp and will definitely deliver a fatal damage once the blow hits, it's not a very difficult move to read.

"Damn you. Only know how to run with your tails between your legs."

That's right. It'll not end unless I start attacking. I take a step forward and shielded myself from the whiskered face attack, on the same time counter him with a tap on his helmet. We're going to work together tomorrow, so I don't want to get him injured now.

But the whiskered face continues to attack further.

Oi, beardy. If this was a real fight, then won't you be dead already? Please admit your defeat like an adult.

Since it can't be helped, I apply a light blow on his shoulder and his torso just when he is starting his assault again. This is a level for a normal swordsman. Sergeant-dono is just obscenely strong.

However, it seems that he still has something in his mind. His face gets redder and he continues to come back. He badly doesn't want to give in.

Before long I got bored fighting this guy with a shabby face, so I give a strong blow at his head around his neck. It's not strong enough to make him collapse, but it should tamper with his breathing for a while. Just like my plan, the whiskered face motion stopped.

"If I'm serious, you would be dead four times by now, you know? Do you really want to die next?"

I bring our face close and tell him in a lowered voice.

"I-I lose."

The whiskered face faces turn blue and he finally admit his loss.

He is so slow. My first strike should make him understand enough. What a hassle.

"Can I go home already?"

I take a look behind and ask Ellie. Drowsiness rush in my head once the match is done.

"Alright, let's head back. Then, Fabio-san, please take care of us

from tomorrow on.”

I woke up at noon after I slept for the second time.

Ellie and Ann are preparing foods at the dining hall.

“You missed it, this morning.”

“Yeah it’s true.”

Ellie agrees with Ann remarks.

“This morning?”

“It’s about Fabio-san. He came to apologize afterwards.”

Ann told so. So, it’s about Fabio-san. That beardy old man?

“I didn’t hear anything about it at all, but why did you guys suddenly decided to have a match?”

Ann asked me about it. I got sleepy halfway, so I don’t really remember how we came into that conclusion.

“Masaru’s attitude is bad, that’s why he got angry. You may not have heard it since you were already asleep halfway through.”

Eh? I thought he wants to fight because of the match, but maybe I’m the one who wronged.....?

“It’s Masaru’s fault.”

“Yea, it’s Masaru’s fault.”

Shit, this is bad. I’m going to apologize properly first thing next morning.

That afternoon is the last moment for the Beginner Training Course.

The scene where Will has his collar removed reminds me of my time and I started to tear up.

Will survived a week in the Boot Camp, and now he has those sturdy and refined feeling around him. Maybe the effect is apparent because he has undergone that hellish training.

“Forgive me Will, for signing up you on something like this. It’s fine even if you hold a grudge on me.”

Then in the future he will stop hanging around me.

“Aniki, I, I’m.....very grateful for you.”

“O-oh. Is that so?”

“I really don’t understand Aniki at all. You’re strong, have great magic, on top of that participated in such deadly training as well. I, now I know how naïve I am.”

I feel relieved now, but I’ll try to not remember much about it. Just a thought of it makes my body sweat like bullets.

“I, I’m going to get much stronger! After that I’m going to make sure that Aniki is going to take me as your disciple for sure!”

What? You haven’t given up yet?

“For now, I’m going for a long expedition starting from next morning. Therefore, I won’t be around for the time being.”

“Eh? Then what should I do?”

As expected, I shouldn’t tell him my plan.

“You’re free to use the hut at my garden. I’ll rebuild it. Please take good care of it.”

Then I give him a piece of Gold coin. It’s worth is about 1 million Yen in Japanese currency.

“I’ll do my best, and I’ll definitely return this!”

“That is a gift. There is no need for you to return it.”

He has endured the harsh training. I think its fine to give him this

much.

“Aniki.....”

Will looks very touched by the gesture, but we got earning alongside experience points in the forest, which totals around 300 Gold. That is around 300 million Yen. My share is about 50 Gold coins. I thought of buying a sword that can endure my applied magic technique, but unfortunately 50 Gold is nowhere enough.

For now, we don't have any issue regarding money.

“Look, your friends are waiting. Go back.”

The trainees are watching us from a distance. When they noticed that I'm looking over, they bowed their head.

“Then Aniki, please take care.”

“Yeah. You too, don't get yourself killed.”

He already made some friends, in the future he'll surely get more careful.

The next day, when we arrive at the meeting place which is the square nearby the Commercial Guild, I found that the merchant is already there in standby. Apparently, our party is the last to arrive. There are two main horse carriages, with total of 5 cabins. They were arranged in tandem. There were still quite a few bags next to the last carriage. I wonder if that is the goods.

“Masaru will take care of this one. Instead of having a dedicated goods cart, Masaru can store them all inside his Item Box. That should be possible, no?”

I see, that's a great idea. But no matter how I look at it, the goods are in more than one cart.

“I received a shipping request at a different place. This is to earn a little pocket money.”

Norman-san, the leader of the merchant team, checks all the

contents at once, before I stored them in my Item Box. I'm glad that all these baggages will be unloaded at Garland Fortress.

“Well, this time we should be safe because there is a B rank party around. I'll ask for your kind regard as long as we're in the journey.”

The journey to Garland Fortress is about 2 weeks. Our journey starts off at a relatively safe road, but the danger increases as we move towards the remote area. However, because of budget inconvenience, they can't simply increase the number of escorts. Norman-san is all smile since there is a B rank party who is accompanying his caravan free of charge.

I look around, but I couldn't see Fabio-san anywhere. I can't apologize to him since he is not coming up until the time of departure. We're leaving soon, so I need to get it done.

As I walk around nearby the first carriage, I saw several people are chatting, and there is Fabio-san among them. When I approached, he suddenly looks very busy and start to scam from the place.

But I'm sure that he saw me.

Does he want to avoid me or something? Even his party members look like they are avoiding from contacting my eyes.

“When you came to apologize, I was not around. Is it fine if I apologize to now?”

It can't be helped, so I return and report it to Ellie and the others.

“I don't think so at all. We're going on a journey together for 2 weeks now. Don't worry about how you do it. Just go and apologize properly.”

“Yeah~”

There is not much time left before departure, so I need to act fast. He will escape again if I approach him normally, so this time I'm going to surprised him. Alright, I caught his position in my

detection.

Since I don't want him to notice me, I activate Levitation to get on top of the couch, and activate my Stealthy Step. After I confirmed Fabio-san's position from above, I quietly landed behind him.

It's convenient that the other person is in quite a distance from us.

I patted Fabio-san's shoulder.

"Urk!"

Fabio-san who got surprised from behind leave a muffled scream.

No. I'm here just to apologize to you. But if I don't do it this way, you might have tried to escape again. Let's quickly apologize to you for the time being.

"Ah, I'm sorry for yesterday. Your neck, is it okay?"

"Ah, no. There is no problem at all."

"Is that so? If it's still hurt, I can use Recovery Magic on you and heal them."

When I reach out to him, Fabio-san takes a step back.

"There is no need. The people from the temple already cured me."

Did Ann, do it? Even so, why is this man still looking at me with those frightened expression? He should have handled much more.

"I don't have much sleep yesterday. I know that my attitude is somewhat rude."

"No, no, I'm the one who has wronged here. Please forgive me already."

Eh? I'm not the bad guy here?

“Err, okay? Then that’s it. Please take care of us for these 2 weeks.”

This is somewhat different from what I’ve imagined. I wonder if this is really fine.

I can see that the carriage has start shaking. Maybe we’re off to our journey soon.

Ann was waving her hand at me when I arrived.

“Sound like we’re departing.”

“Th-that’s right. Hurry up!”

Fabio-san walked towards the couch.

I wonder what is it, really.

On the later date, I went from burning adventurer from Fire Magic, to crushing aristocrat who is trying to force a bride with a Golem, and then those feelings from the rumors that I heard during the time when Fabio-san is restocking.

Why the hell are all this happening!

Chapter 2: Journey ① Leaving

The first day of the trip, I'm chatting while practicing Earth Magic.

On the second day, I've gotten a complaint that my Earth Magic is making the coach dusty.

"If you really want to practice then do it on the roof."

Practicing Earth Magic is necessary, but truthfully, it's just for killing time for now. That's still not a reason to not do it.

"Don't want to. It's cold up there."

I replied to Ellie while hugging Sati from the back.

It's cold outside, so I hold Sati to warm myself up, but both of us are fully equipped. It's hard to fool around when the armor keeps clattering, and there is no sex appeal at all.

Besides, even if we get our own dedicated horse-drawn wagon, there's not much things that can be done compared to usual time. Ellie is currently teaching magic to Ann and Tilika, so she is busier than me.

Since there is nothing to do, I just watch the outside scenery together with Sati, peering out from inside the coach.

"I thought there are going to be many dangerous moments in this trip."

I already anticipated that this trip will likely be less dangerous than the time we were in the forest, but this is a little too boring. Aside from the occasional passing carriages or other travelers, nothing comes into the view.

A peaceful country view is laid in front of my view. Now that

we're at the second day, there are more towns, villages and some fields, compared to the grassland devoid of things in our first day. This area in particular has many wheat plantations.

"That is because the community will search for a safe area before moving. Like that, they ensure a more secured livelihood. Siory Town and Gorbas Fortress are special cases."

Because there are many towns and villages near the vicinity, there is a lesser risk of getting raided by demons compared to Siory Town. Nevertheless, they still get invaded by demons.

The fields are left open, but each village and towns that we've passed by are covered either by fences or walls. In addition to that, gate keepers are employed to guard the entrance. Even the farmers are carrying weapons.

"There is no need to worry for now, but soon we'll enter the danger zone. For now, let's relax first."

On the first day, we stayed inside the town. For today and tomorrow, we're going to get the proper accommodations. Moreover, the expenses for this day is included within the negotiation with the merchants group.

"Until when?"

"The fourth day. From fifth day onwards we're going to camp."

Wow, I don't want that. Compared to that, boredom is nothing.

"If you're that bored then let's read some books!"

Sati.....that is the worst option there is.

The roads are paved with stones, but it's still far from being comfortable, and the coach is rattling all the time. The wheels are made of wood. Seems like they are not coated with rubber. Fortunately, I never have car sickness or something remotely like that, but this is still unpleasant situation to read.

"You feel sick?"

Looks like Sati never experienced it before. She tilted her necks and looks at me.

When I went to the Gorbas Fortress I took the carriage as well, but mine was the second one, and the inside was packed full with people. Plus, the situation didn't let me have this kind of thought.

"I don't know? I feel fine though."

"I'm fine."

"It's impossible for me."

"I think I'm not good too. Plus, Recovery Magic won't help much in curing the nauseated feeling from motion sickness."

It basically heals the sickness, but sensations like your semicircular canal getting shaken remains.

"You still want to read them?"

I took out a book from my Item Box and handed it to Sati. Recently, I found out that she can read the book herself. Whether she can read them or not, only time will tell.

"Yes!"

Thirty minutes later, Sati becomes completely limp. She really can't handle it, reading the book.

"My head.....it's spinning..."

"I'll heal you, then why don't you try continue reading."

"It's fine to take off your armor. We're reaching the next town soon."

"Onee-chan let me help you take them off."

"I'm sorry, I really had troubled you....."

I tried healing her for couple of times, but they are not that effective. I hope that she will at least not vomit.

“We’re going to reach the next town, soon right? How long will it take?”

I ask the coachmen. That person is the oldest among the other merchants. As expected, he has some affection towards the girls who are pretty much around the age of his grandchildren. That might be his reason for choosing our coach.

“Yeah. Another 30 minutes or so.”

Still some time, huh.

“We’re already near the town, I’ll take Sati there myself. Hey Sati, we’re getting off.”

“Good idea. This neighborhood is not that dangerous too.”

“I’m going with you.”

“You stay here, Tilika. I’m going to Fly there.”

“Masaru, me too! Me too!”

Can I hold both of them?

“Sati at my front, and Tilika at my back. Careful not to fall.”

In an event if they really did fall, it’s still going to be fine because both of them can use Levitation.

“Then, I’m going ahead.”

“Please inform Norman-san before you go.”

Norman-san, who is the head of this merchant group, should be at the first carriage.

I activated [Fly], and flew towards the front carriage. I reverse my position along the top of the carriage, and tell them that I’m going ahead and will wait for them at the entrance of the town. Afterwards, I slowly rise my flight while increasing the speed.

Norman-san, what’s with your strange face. Two girls just come

and meet him, I guess that was something.

“Sati, how are you feeling?”

“The wind feels nice.”

I look forward, the towns silhouette looks small. The place looks more like a village then a town to me, but from the amount of the people there, it might be a town. Just like the others, the town perimeter is fenced, and around it is fields as far as eyes can see.

Flying is fast, easy and fun. The consumption is insane, but currently I have nothing else to do. I really regretted it not using the skills for a long time.

“I wish I could fly forever.”

Sati mumbled. Tilika heard it too.

“We can rely on Drago.”

“Let’s not do that.”

I’m going to be in trouble if there’s another big fuss again.

“This is really pleasant.”

“Right~”

“Can we do this again tomorrow?”

No, we better not. If it’s Sati alone then there might be no problem.

“Let’s not do it. I won’t read a book tomorrow.”

“Is that so.....”

“If you read a book another time, then you wouldn’t get car sick.”

“Yes.....”

This is the first time I ever seen Sati get motion sickness. She

looks like she is in pain.

“If you get sick after this, then I don’t mind flying again.”

“Yes!”

“Me too!”

“Yeah, yeah. Tilika too, okay.”

Sati seems to cheer up. Might be because I’ve comforted her.

As I approach the town, I slowly reduce my flight height.

They might get angry if I enter the town without permission. If they turned hostile, I still have my bow. Actually, one of the guard noticed me and currently staring over here.

I waved lightly at them. There is no harm showing them friendly attitude now. Not like they will suddenly start shooting their arrows, right?

“Get down.”

“Yes. Somehow, my stomach feels very empty now.”

“We’ll find the shop inside the town. Anything that you like to have?”

“Ramen.”

“I want Ramen too.”

Nise Ramen and pasta, huh. If it’s like that, once we reach the inn, I’ll need to borrow their kitchen or their yard. Time to make it again after long time.

The third day is the same with previous one, full with leisure’s.

“Today I didn’t get sick.”

Sati told me.

“Then it’s good.”

Today, Tilika acted as my body pillow, while Sati is sitting in front of us. Sati is gazing over here.

“Want to fly again?”

Tilika asked her.

Ah, I see. Our conversation from when she was sick yesterday.

“Scout. We’re going for scouting, Sati. Let’s fly.”

“Yes, let’s go!”

Sati’s face was brimming with delight.

“As for Tilika.....”

“I’ll wait here.”

We stroll around on the sky for about 5 minutes or so, but Sati looks extremely satisfied.

After that, I came back and get Tilika, and proceed to fly same way like Sati. Ellie can fly by herself, as for Ann she is not really interested. Ann said that she is a bit scared of height.

Fourth day. We’ve finally leave the rural area landscape as the horse carriage entered the forest highway.

Now, there are three horse carriage, with total of 8 coaches. Our coach is the last one as usual.

“Why are the carriages increasing?”

“That’s because everyone is going for the same destination.”

“Somehow it feels like we’re escorting them.”

“It’s not your feeling, we really are working as their escorts right now.”

There is no payment received for this job, and now, it seems like there are more unnecessary work than ever, I don't feel motivated at all.

"It's important to have mutual respect. While we're on it, they can act as additional fighting force as well."

I frowned. Now after Ellie has explained it, I get the gist of the situation. Certainly, the other merchants are also properly armed. Some of them looks like newbie adventurers, but they are enough to be an addition to the overall fighting forces.

But our current formation, where everyone is aligned in one long formation is not good. My detection can't reach until the front coaches. Same case for Sati, since her hearing sense is reduced to half due to the noisy carriages. We can't rely on her so much.

"Sati, let's go for reconnaissance."

"Yes, Masaru sama."

Unlike yesterday, today we're going to scout for real. Sati understood that, and replied with a serious expression.

"There shouldn't be anything, still, be careful, just in case."

Ann told us worriedly.

I'm still reluctant to leave them behind, but both Ann and Ellie is capable of utilizing combat magic, and for Tilika she can use Summoning Magic. Everything should be alright.

Sati is going to help me by acting like a radar, and tell me if there is danger ahead.

Together with Sati, I leaped toward the front carriage. I tell them to help look for the carriage at the back.

"Next to that square point is the resting place. Can you see from this far?"

I've been flying regularly with my wives for the past few days, so

now they are accustomed to us.

“Understood. If there is nothing, I’ll wait for you guys at that square, is it okay?”

They said there is no need to get back and report. That’s because they know that flying consume lots of magic power.

We arrived there after few minutes.

Usually it takes hours to reach by normal carriages, but, by flying, we can reach there in an instant.

“There is nothing here.”

“Yes.”

We’re still not that far yet from the previous town.

“We’re free now while waiting for them.”

Therefore, I’ve decided to practice my swordsmanship to kill some time. We’re using real sword.

Sati is strong. She is still weaker compared to Sergeant-dono, but she is definitely above me. That’s why, it’s okay if I’m being serious. Not to mention, I’m absolutely safe since she won’t harm me.

Still, we’re using real sword, so the tension is tad different.

Our clashing swords sound reverberates throughout the forest.

“The carriages, they are here.”

After a while, Sati notified me during our practice.

“Let’s continue a bit more.”

I’m also aware of the approaching horse carriages, but the sweat feels pleasant on my body.

Training without getting hurt is enjoyable.

But the horse-drawn carriage stopped before the square point.

I can't see anything that will make them stop. Is there any trouble?

Abruptly stopping our practice, I went to the carriages to see the situation, and few people get off from the carriage and come towards me. Among them is Fabio san.

"I heard there are people fighting. Anything happened?"

Fabio-san is quite old, probably in his middle age. However, he always addresses me with honorifics without fail. I already ask him not to do it few days ago.....

"Err.....I'm sorry. Since I have free time, I decided to have a sword practice."

Of course, if a sword clashing sound is heard from the direction of your destination, people will get wary of it. After I explain it, Fabio-san returns to his carriage, relieved.

After we returned to our coach, we got scolded by Ellie.

"What were you guys thinking, suddenly practicing swordsmanship?"

"I thought it'll be the best thing to do to kill some time....."

Sati is also sticking close beside me.

"Now, now, clam down a bit, Ellie. Did something happened that makes you worried like this?"

"I'm sorry."

"I'm sorry."

Nevertheless, since it was decided that scouting ahead is actually useful, they ask to continue. The merchants get pleased, and I can ease my boredom.

However, in this case, I thought that it will be bad if we don't have any means of communication. So, I asked about it to Norman-san.

If safety is secured, raise a smoke at the resting point. If there is danger, go back and report, or inform them by unleashing a flashy magic, or battle sound. That's how we decided.

We're not a mercenary, so this degree is enough. The best way is by bringing along summoned beast together with me, but I've decided to hide that magic for now so it's a no-no.

Then, I go for reconnaissance again, and yet I found nothing again. If we go further inside the woods, there are some monsters lurking, but the one near the road were eliminated.

During noon, Tilika replaced Sati. This is a real scouting, unlike that time when we're strolling around the sky, but the feeling is about the same. Plus, I'm tired of riding on the carriage all the time.

Soon after noon, my detection manages to caught something.

It's coming from one spot of the woods nearby the highway. Judging from the size, it's either Orc or human. They are not moving from their spot.

I slowly fly towards the spot while lowering my altitude a bit as to not getting found out. There, I get six more reactions. All of them remains in that spot and not moving. What a strange place to take a break.

"What do you think?"

I asked Tilika for her opinion.

"Thieves."

"Just seven of them?"

"Enough to rob a small merchant group or a walking traveler."

"What to do now?"

There are only 30 minutes left before our carriages go through this road. That's how much time I've got.

“Capture them, or kill.”

Want to kill them?.....it's better to catch them. Although it's fine to kill demons, but for human, no matter how bad are they it'll still leave a bad taste.

“Is there anything that can be done after catching them?”

“Let's see. After investigating them, they can be turned into slaves. The money received after selling them will be returned back to us, about half of them. There are also cases where bounty is put on their head.”

Turning them into slave. Even if we only get half it'll still make a good money.

“One way or another, let's check them out first.”

Tilika approves of my plan. Even if we want to report back, we need to check first what are we dealing with first.

We get down inside the forest far enough not to alarm them. I don't want to get Tilika into trouble, so I asked her to wait and don't follow me.

If they are demons, then it's simple. I only need to blow them away with my magic.

But, as I approach, I saw silhouette of human being.

They are sitting under the tree's big branch, about three meters away from the road. All of them are staring there. They are equipped with a sword on their waist and bow on their shoulder. Although they are wearing leather armor, the condition is horrible. It's crazy to think someone from the Adventurer's Guild will wear something like that.

There is no mistaking it, they are thieves. Normal civilian will never monitor the road, and if there is an organization somewhere

that is doing it, there is no way they will employ such a suspicious looking people.

I go back and report to Tilika.

“We should capture and interrogate them.”

They are separated from each other so it's not difficult to capture them. Either shooting them by using Thunder magic or soften the ground, the worst they will get is just some fractured bones.

We secretly went near them again.

Just to be sure, I used Earth Magic to turn the ground soft. Although I'm doing it quietly, I'm worried whether he will notice or not, but the guy just yawns without any care in the world. That's quite irritating.

After striking him down with a lesser version of Thunder, he effortlessly sinks inside the ground without letting out loud sound.

My adjustment is perfect, all he can do is staring back at me, eyes wide open. He can't move nor speak.

“Be a man. Don't open your mouth. Won't it be bad for you to get killed in a place like this?”

After I threaten him with my short sword, he completely goes silent.

I'm scared of what will happen if this guy turned out to be innocent, thankfully, he is a criminal. Well if that did happen then I'll deal with it.

When I tried to bind him, I noticed bad smell emanating from his body.

This guy, he didn't go for a bath.....!?

I tried to clean him up first, then resume on binding him.

Just to be sure, I harden the soil from his lower part to his knee.

Before that, I lifted up his upper body around Tilika's height.

Chapter 3: Journey ② Thieves Suppression

I took more time than expected to catch him. The remaining six don't seem to notice, as they remained in their positions. But, if I don't hurry, the horse carriages will approach soon.

"I was caught in the moment. I wonder if things are still fine."

Tilika listened to me whispering.

"Nobody will complain if you killed them in a place like this. There is no need for you to be sorry."

If I did a Dogeza, I wonder if I'll be forgiven.

"I'll start interrogating him. Please apply Recovery Magic."

"Please make it as quite as possible."

For the time being, we're going to act in assumption that this guy is a thief, and threaten him by placing a knife at his neck. Since there's a (considerable) distance between each of them, it's fine even if we make some noise. Now that the idea seems plausible, I apply 【Heal】 on this guy who is currently on the ground.

What if he really is not a thief? Won't he get extremely pissed?

I wish I've hidden my face.

"Answer me. Are you a bandit?"

Tilika gets on the ground and pointed the knife on the thief's cheek.

Since she has positioned herself behind the thief, that guy can't see Tilika at all. Her ability, Evil Eyes of Truth or Lies, works just fine without looking at the guy face.

“Y-you’re wrong! I’m just a hunter. Don’t think you can get away by doing this! I’m going to report you to our lords!”

What, so we really get them wrong!?

But, Tilika looks at me and shook her head. So, he was lying? Thank God. I’m relieved.

“Have you killed a person before?”

The bandit turned silent.

“Answer.”

Tilika pushed the knife to the thief neck.

“I’ve never.”

Towards his answer, Tilika looks at me and shakes her head again. Looks like this guy has killed people too.

“That person, is he your companion?”

“N-no. I don’t know them.”

He answered in plural form. This is a lie as well.

“Are you going to attack when any travelers passing here?”

“I am just a hunter! I will not attack a traveler or something!”

“How many people have you killed? 1 person, or more than 5, or 10?”



“No, no. I haven’t killed a single person!”

The thief has started sweating bullets, and from my observation he’s getting impatient.

“A liar. This guy is a murderer and a bandit. At least 5 people has

fall prey on his hand.”

Tilika stand and reported it to me.

I see. This scum has killed 5 people.

“What to do? Would you like me to join?”

Tilika shows her interest.

“Oi, release me from this rope at this instant!”

“Shut up. If you don’t, I’ll kill you.”

I lightly kick the thief belly.

There is no reason to hold back. I don’t have the intention to kill, but leaving him with some injury is fine I think.

“T-to think this is the way you treat an innocent hunter.....”

This guy keeps on talking, then Tilika bring her face close to him.

“In my eyes, you’re a bandit and a killer.”

After that, Tilika takes off her hood.

“A-a Truth Officer!? Why is there a Truth Officer here in this place!?”

“Shut up. It’s an easy feat to dispose of you right here and right now.”

While saying that, she strikes her knife to the thief hand.

Tilika-san is frightening. It’s scarier now when she gets so motivated.

“Y-you, just shut up quietly. At this rate, you’re going to get killed.”

A Truth Officer words can’t be taken lightly. That’s because they can’t lie.

I think the thief finally get that. Now he become completely silent.

“Tilika too, calm down a bit. Let’s go back and join our carriage.”

“Un.”

I tie down the adult thief mouth with a cloth. Thinking for a while, I’ve decided to freeze his lower body up to his hand by using Earth Magic.

Like this, he can’t do anything.

Tilika gets on my back and while grabbing the thief with both hand, I activate Fly and went back to the carriage.

It’s easy to catch back the carriage if I fly alongside the highway. I land in front of the carriage, and shakes my hand, asking them to stop.

“There are thieves! If you continue, we’re going to get ambushed.”

I tell Fabio-san who is sitting at the front carriage.

“!?”

“This is one of them. We already interrogated him.”

I pointed to the thief who is rolling on the ground.

“What’s the situation?”

Fabio-san get down from the carriage and asked.

“There are 6 people more.”

“That’s not much…….”

“What? Is there anything wrong?”

Ellie, Ann and Sati comes from the back of the carriages. I explained it to them again.

“Let’s defeat them.”

What to do? Right after I asked, Ellie chimed in.

Compared to our merchant group size, theirs can be overlooked, but it won’t hurt to play safe. Since they don’t know that we’re aware, it’ll be easy to fend off their surprise attack.

But, we need to make haste. It’s a matter of time before they realized that this guy is missing. If they decided to run away then thing will get awkward.

We briefly formed a strategy meeting. There are six enemies. As for us, we have twice the number of that. Plus, we have mages here as well.

We’re going to pass the road acting like usual. When the thieves ambushed, I’m going to launch my magic. After my magic hit them, Sati will rush in together with Fabio san and myself. We’ll capture and clean up the rest.

If they surrender after my magic assault, we’ll capture them. If they resist, then there is no holding back.

In other words, kill.

I checked again with the captured guy and confirm that there are no mages among the thieves. It was mentioned that their boss is extremely powerful foe, but if he turned out to be crap then I alone am enough to handle him. I have Sati too, and it’s unimaginable to think that someone that can oppose both of us exist.

“There are lots of strong thieves out there too. They’re so strong that they are comparable to a soldier or an adventurer.”

I think Fabio-san is worrying too much about the thieves’ strength.

“There is no need to refrain yourselves. Just think of them as Demons. Just do it usual.”

During our preparation, I asked Ellie about how much strength

should I put this time. Her answer, slaughter them all.

“Isn’t that better? If we don’t clean them up here properly, then surely in the future another innocent traveler will suffer.”

I understand that. I get what she is implying, to do it myself.....

I don’t know, maybe we can inform the soldier stationed at the nearby town or something. Well, I better not. If I did that, someone might get attacked in the meantime.

“If Masaru don’t want to do it, then I’ll do it instead of you~?”

“I’m doing it.”

“No, let me do it.”

Both Tilika and Ellie offered, but unlike me they don’t know the exact position of the thieves hidden in the woods. As for me, I’ve got detection skills. If I leave it to both of them, then there is no doubt that they will use excessively strong magic. Like that, the thieves are confirmed to die.

“If you can, make it so that we can catch them, without any blood spilling.”

Ann too, doesn’t enjoy the act of killing.

We rearrange our coaches so that ours is the one in front. As soon as all the adventurers are in position, we started moving.

Without any mercy, the carriages started moving. I don’t have much time to think anymore, and there is no way I can consult them for an idea. I have no choice but to do it. It can’t be helped even if it will leave a bad after taste. My resolution is firm.

Fire Magic is a no go. We need to put down the fire afterwards, and it can hardly be used to catch person alive, since it packed too much firepower.

Wind Magic is good. I can use Wind Cutter to chopped them up. It will be to the degree that’s not enough to kill, yet wounded them

enough that they can't counter attack anymore.

No, what if my control is not good enough? Then the thieves will survive the wound and launch a counter attack.....

Right now, I'm situated inside the first carriage, at the side facing to the thieves. I'm going to be the first to receive the counter attack. The bandits, they have a bow too. For the time being, I'm going to go with a slightly larger shield. But I need to make sure that the thieves are not alerted.

While thinking, the thieves finally entered my detection range.

I told everyone to get prepared. This is not the time to be thinking anymore.

Demon, that's how I'm going to view them. They are Orcs. Both of them attack humans. It's either kill, or be killed.

"I'm going to start chanting."

I declared. Start chanting, 【Wind Storm】.

Did the thieves noticed us? There are slight movement from their side, but that's it. While the carriage is getting closer, the thieves start creeping for the best possible position.

Tilika already interrogated one of them. There is no mistake.

If I release this magic, they will definitely get hurt.

No, that's a fact since I'm using a Level 3 magic. The overall power is lesser than that time I used it on the Orc Settlement, but it's enough to kill a human.

Casting complete. After a moment of hesitation, I released the magic. They're enemy. Enemy.

"Wind Storm"

A raging storm that occurred magically instantaneously overwhelms the trees inside the forest.

Not good. This magic is this powerful!?

The carriages stopped, and the adventurers saw I'm taking my sword. There is no time. I'm going in first.

Getting off the coach, I see that Sati is ready as well. Together, we charge into the forest.

We both split to right and left respectively. When I check again with my detection, four of them are not moving. One person is slowly moving. The last one is escaping at a reasonable speed. Apparently, I've done it without killing them all.

After entering the forest, I found four people rolling on their own blood. The wounds are deep, but all of them are still breathing. One person is trying to escape into the depth of the woods, but maybe due to the magic damage, he is tottering. Since there are not much distance between us, I hit him down with Air Hammer.

"I'll leave her to you guys. I'm going to pursue that one guy leftover."

I tell Fabio-san and co. Five of them should be good enough.

Sati, follow that escaping guy. I'll fly and track him from above."

"Yes."

I activated 【Fly】 , and take flight at full speed.

Since I know the fleeing thief position, I quickly catch up with him.

I went ahead of him and dropped five boulders, taken from my Item Box.

crash. Now that the boulders have been dropped, I pulled out my sword and descended.

".....urh, ah, ahhhh!"

The thief screamed.

The thief stopped his movement since there boulders-make wall, and afterwards, an arrow pierces him. Following that, four arrows pierce him at his shoulders and knees, and then he collapsed.

Sati, no mercy at all.

“Masaru-sama.”

While holding her bows, she caught up.

“Un well done.”

The fallen thief is suffering. I solidified his limbs with Earth Magic. Then I picked up his sword.

“Kuhh.....uuuh.....why this happen...”

The collapsed thief trembling due to the pain.

“I wonder. Even I’m not sure why this happen.”

Why am I catching thieves in different world? I thought my job will be primarily to hunt monster. It’s unexpected to hunt human.

“I’ll pull the arrow out and treat your wounds, so be quiet.”

I’m relieved that this guy is not dead even though he is bleeding badly. However, he doesn’t seem to retain his consciousness. He was hit by four arrows. It must hurt like hell that he fainted.

I instructed Sati to take out the pierced arrows. One of them are stuck at his shoulder, and another three at his legs. Looking closely at him, his body is full of scratches. This must be from the Wind Storm.

【Heal】 【Heal】 , is this enough? He is not completely recovered, but right now he should have avoided death. Also, some purifying magic. Need to make sure his open wounds won’t get infection.

After collecting back my boulders, I lifted up the bounded thief with Levitation.

“Let’s go back.”

“Yes, Masaru sama.”

While walking together with Sati inside the forest, the thief woken up and start talking to me.

“Hey, you.”

“Hm?”

“I’m not one of their group, you know.”

“Really.”

“I was caught by them.”

Yet, you’re well equipped with sword?

“That’s why, can you free me?”

No way I’m doing that.

“I need to return back to my village. My sick mother is waiting.”

Who knows.

“Hey.”

I stopped, and look at the thief.

“You just want to escape.”

“Why did you become a thief?”

“.....our crop failed.”

“Hmm.”

He doesn’t deny that he is a thief.

“There is no rain at all and our crops all died. I tried borrowing some money, but after a year I still can’t get other decent job. In the

end, both my house and my fields were taken.”

“You’ve got some rough time.”

I can understand his situation somehow.....

“That’s why! I beg you. Please release me.”

Even so, becoming a thief and attacking the traveler is not a commendable thing.

“I understood.”

“Then!”

“If you’re not driven by a bad motive, then there is no harm to explain them in front of the Truth Official. That’s a nice trade off, no?”

“That’s right! I’m going to tell you the location of the treasures! They are the collected goods that I’ve save so far, and I’m going to tell you how to get them!”

If you have such treasures, then you wouldn’t become a thief in the first place.

“Why don’t you give up already?”

“I won’t! Let me go! Release me this instaaaantttt!”

He furiously moved, trying to escape. However, the restraint made of Earth Magic is solid. There is no way it can be broken by human power.

“You’re damn noisy. Why don’t you quiet down a bit.”

I increase the Levitation higher and higher.

I lifted him up for about five meters, and move him in circle. Afterwards, the thief shuts up.

“What, the cat gets your tongue? You were noisy just a while ago.”

Fabio-san and the others arrive while I'm playing around.

"He is quite noisy, so..."

I pointed to the thief who is currently high mid-air.

"How about the others?"

"All tied up and carried to the carriages."

"Well then, shall we go back?"

My sympathy towards the thieves have completely lost.

When we returned to the carriages, I saw Ellie and Norman-san are discussing about something outside. The bounded thieves were put aside the road, around them are guards with swords. I lifted up the thieves and put them inside the carriage. One of them is injured, so I treat him.

"So, what should we do after this?"

"I'm waiting for you, Masaru."

Ellie explained that we have two options.

The first one is to turn back to the nearest town that we came out this morning and handed down the thieves. Though nearest, it'll take the whole day.

The second one is to bring over the thieves until the next village. However, it'll take until tomorrow afternoon to arrive at the next village, and another day for bigger town. Today, we're supposed to camp out. That's why, it's dangerous to camp while carrying seven thieves together. And honestly, that will increase the number of baggage that we need to bring, and we couldn't afford that.

"I'm fine with bringing them along, but where to put them? There is not much place, no?"

Ellie points inside the carriage.

“One more thing, you should take all the baggage from the carriages.”

She is right. there are still rooms in my Item Box.

“Masaru is going to decide what our next course of action.”

“Eh? I’m going to decide?”

“Right. Because you’re our leader.”

Ellie want us to move on. She wants to meet Nania-san as soon as possible. The merchant leader, Norman-san wants to go back, but he said that everything is up to me. Whichever it’s, I need to be responsible for the thieves.

“Let’s proceed.”

I’m on the quest, so I don’t want to disturb our schedule. I’m a bit skeptical, travelling together with the prisoners, but if I keep on them tight with my Earth Magic, then they won’t get away.

“Then we’re going to proceed.”

Norman-san quickly approved my decision.

According to Ellie, a B Ranks opinion has that much weight. General public expectations towards the adventurers ranking system is quite high.

The important requirement to ascend to B rank is the suppression of a large species. In other words, the approval will be denied unless it’s proven that the adventurer has defeated something like a dragon, and they are expected to subjugate a dragon monster level if they appear. I was shocked when I heard that.

“I finally get it after defeating a dragon.”

“That is that, but it won’t be easy like that all the time.....”

One failure, and you’re dead.

Though, even if a dragon did appear, they won't actually be forced to subjugate it. Of course, the stories are different if the dragon is attacking the town.

Previously, during the investigation of the forest, there are four parties involved, including the B Rank Dawn Battle Axe. Alternates party also presented that time to further strengthen the group and increase the chance to defeat the dragon.

But, the difference between a C Rank and B Rank is as clear as the day. Usually, a normal adventurer will never be able to defeat a dragon. Most probably, they will either die or retire half way.

Rather, being able to defeat a dragon is stranger.

I remember how Olba-san and Lazard-san charge in towards the dragon. Unlike a mage class, a warrior won't rank up to B Rank unless he can do something like that.

That's why B Rank is amazing! That's how they get it.

Actually, the dragon that we've defeated, together with B Rank Dawn Battle Axe are more towards regular one, which is a far cry compared to a higher-level dragon.

Then what kind of power does an A Rank and S Rank hold?

According to what I heard from Sati, Sergeant-dono is capable of ripping off a 5 meter Wyvern in half with a single blow.

That's a strength of a retiring warrior. How stronger he was, during his heyday? And even back then, he is only A Rank.

It's fine to aim for an S Rank, but we need to have corresponding achievements. For me, B Rank is more than enough. But that Ellie will never agree with my sentiments.....

Chapter 4: Journey ③ Transporting the Prisoner

After Tilika's interrogation session, we get to know that the aforementioned treasures doesn't exist.

There are gold eyes that are wearable. It gives a feeling that it will peel off. The base is left untouched.

Later, the thieves' equipment's and the gold eye got assessed by Norman-san, then the profit will be distributed between Fabio-san and myself.

Finally, it's confirmed that everyone is guilty. The results of the interrogation are carefully recorded. I don't know whether we will leave them with the police or the soldiers, but it should be a good evidence when we hand them in. The testimony is certified by a Truth Official.

I bring them to one of the carriages. All the goods inside were already stored inside my Item Box. This particular carriage was reinforced with Earth Magic to turn it into a sturdy prison. We put the thieves inside, and enclose the carriage completely. With only an air hole, this carriage has become a perfect prison without doors.

All of the thieves are quiet. Perhaps, the death threat is working on them.

No, it isn't just a mere empty threat. They are serious, that's why those thieves are afraid. This society allows people to do this kind of thing. Truly dreadful.....

"In case if I really did kill all of them."

"Massacre."

When Tilika heard it, she replied so. For some reason, I have a right to make a decision. Nobody is going to raise an objection. I found them, then I either kill or capture them. Is it really alright for

me to hold all the responsibility as a matter of course? Even though I didn't do it alone.

It doesn't matter if the Truth Official is present or not. If the same situation occurs, things will be more simplified. For example, if it's only Fabio-san party who has found them first, and if the thieves managed to be captured, then the party hold the rights to kill all the thieves.

I tried asking around what they are going to do if they encountered a same situation. The people replied that they will take same action as I did. Even the residents of this different world, who has probably killed before, find that unnecessary murder to be disgusting. I felt a bit relieved.

“Just that, if there are no option left□□”

A situation where there are no carriages like right now. If there are no method to safely transport them to a village, then the thieves will be killed. Right on site. I wonder if the decision makes on the crime spot hold much power.

For me who have become a Riajuu in this different world, I'm in a situation where I'm far from my wives' comfort. Right now, I'm acting as a co-driver for the prisoner escort car. No more scouting. I tried to asking regarding that matter once, but I got asked to watch over the prisoners instead.

I need to look after the prisoners since I'm the one who caught them. Right now, at my back, is a carriage modified into a prison made by Earth Magic. The walls are hardened so a jailbreak is impossible. Even so, there is no way I can leave the monitoring job to the merchants alone.

And there are seven of them. That spells trouble.

“The mage husbands! The mage husbands!”

The thieves call out desperately.

“Toilet. Please, I'm going to leak!”

We need to take care of their meal and their toilet needs. Even though I can keep them all confined separately, then it will be more hassle for the next two days. If I abandoned their request now, I'll need to think about how to clean up aftermath.

In the end, a toilet can't be attached together with the carriage. There is no helping it, I need to let them out. As for their meal, they are getting bread at morning and evening, and their drinks are contained in a bottle, to make it easier.

Everything is done by magic from outside, so there is no danger. The prisoners are also quiet.

The highway approaches the ridge. The roads go through the hilly part of the mountainous area. Although there are plenty of part where it's strictly hilly, we don't face any problem proceeding thanks to the well-maintained road condition.

When we arrived at the camping site that day, there are nothing in particular besides our row of carriages. The small square site is on the side of the highway, and a streamlet can be heard.

The carriages are separated from the horses, and I covered them with Earth Magic. I don't think they are capable of breaking the prison, just in case.

To my surprised, it turns out there are no problems to loosen the monitoring during night time. Despite saying that the monitoring is loosen, the prison is actually located at the middle of the camp. There are around 20 merchants in this group, and as for use I instantly build a hut with Earth Magic besides the prison and sleep next to the prisoners.

“Good work today, Masaru.”

Anne told me when I crawled inside the Futon.

When the merchants saw I created a prison for the thieves, they asked me to create a hut for themselves. Of course, they don't actually demand it from me, I'm creating it for them sincerely.

This looks good, what a wonderful thing, I hear such praises filled

with envy. Since I have surplus magic power anyway, I decided to create one for them. During this season, staying outdoor is a severe experience. Especially here in the mountainous area. They have their own proper camping set, but with a tent alone, they couldn't escape from the cold night completely.

As a result, it was decided that I'll build a solid house enough to fill all 20 persons in the camp.

There are people among the merchants who are familiar with a carpentry work. They made a fine door from the nearby tree. Now, the building looks like a normal stone house. I'm putting some fine interior detailing as well, like installing a fireplace to use during cold, and hardening the wall. Like this, this house can be used for several years.

"Travelling is troublesome. Let's go by our own when we're going back. Let's use the gate that time."

"Right. That is better."

"To tell you the truth, I don't want to go through this arduous process either. I'm worried about Nania."

"I enjoy this journey. It's relaxing and fun."

Tilika is already fast asleep beside Sati. Maybe she was tired from chasing the bandit all day today.

I just want to live freely together with my wives. Why am I taking care of the prisoners and building house like now?

Next day, fifth day, afternoon. We finally got through the mountain pass and arrived at the village where we originally planned to turn in the thieves, but we got refused.

It's small village. Indeed, they will surely get in trouble if we ask them to help us process the thieves.

According to the village chief, there is a town with a lordship, one day away from here. This case can be handled there. If we must absolutely leave them here, then they will execute the thieves. I

promise to take the thieves to the other town in panic.
Seriously.....

“Anything we can help you with?”

Now that my works is over, next is Angela turns to do her business.

If the town has a shrine, she will visit them. If the town don't have a shrine, she will do missionary work instead. Her main activity involving treating the other.

There are no people who are seriously ill, but there are some people who are sick. We decided to take care of them at the village chief's home.

Other than that, they have received less rains this year. The captured thieves also mentioned the same thing. Well, hearing stuff like water shortage is normal, but will praying to the shrine bring a rain?

“You get it wrong. We're going to dig a well.”

I see. Then, it's time for Earth Magic again.

Doesn't that mean it's for me? Me again.....

“Please, Masaru.”

If you plead cutely like that, then there is no choice. This might be a charity service, but it is still one of my important wife request. I'll do it.

Digging a well is easy by using Earth Magic. The task just involved searching for a good location, and taking out the chunk of earth by using Earth Magic. There is no necessary need to dig too deep, so that's one thing off the mind.

Whether there is an underground water running, or the village chief is just good at choosing locations, all the three wells that were dug produced a significant source of water.

After confirming that they are indeed the water spring, I surrounded it with a firm wall. Then, I produced a roof on top of it, and the end result is a well that can be seen anywhere else.

After building the well, we were shown to the reservoir ponds for agricultural water outside the village walls. The reservoir is in a state where the water is lowered until the bottom is visible.

The reservoir is still capable of producing small stream, but right now it's in a state where the water is almost nonexistent. I tried to cheat by pouring the well water, but it is still not enough.

It's clear as a day that the crops will die if this situation persist.

“Instead of building a well, isn't it easier to use Water Magic?”

I asked them.

“But the amount of magic required will be.....”

“Lots of magic power is required if we want to use this method, is it?”

Ann quickly cast a glance this way.

I don't know from where the water materializes when we use magic. However, if we want water alone, then it shouldn't consume much MP, and if I'm serious, then I can still produce considerable amount. We have four people adepts with magic here, all of them are skillful enough, capable to handle Water Magic without problem. Since there are nothing special going on at the inn, they are all here and it's a good thing.

“Then, everyone, can I ask for your favors?”

“I don't mind.”

“Assist.”

We immediately fill the reservoirs with water. There are quite a lot coming from all four of us together.

But where does this massive amount of water really come from? It's way too much compared to the moisture in air. So, it's either the air itself is converted with elements conversion or the water is summoned from the other places? It's a mystery.

While I'm in deep thought, the water keeps on pouring inside the reservoir. When the water level keeps rising, all the villagers shouting 'Ooooooh!'.

The water level has risen to about 70 to 80 percent when everyone stopped due to low magical power. The villagers cheered for us. There are three new wells and the water level in the reservoir has been restored to an acceptable level, they shouldn't have any problem going through this drought. This is just a temporary solution, and in the end, they will need to rely on rain again.

Afterwards, we are invited to a welcoming party at the village chief's house. Compared to the inn, it's a place where I can enjoy with leisure together with my wives. Then, Ann looks this way with a frantic face. Well, next we're going to start treatment over there too.

We moved to one of the room at village chief house, and villagers come in for treatment. From my understanding, the priest often comes to the village that doesn't have shrine, and in turns, the villagers received the treatment, therefore it's a mutual benefit.

Since this is a volunteering works, the villagers are not charged for the treatment. However, the villagers give their thanks to the God and the shrine, and to Angela as well. Sometimes, they give us crops that they harvested from their fields, such as vegetables.

We only have few magic power left, but I've confirmed that there is no seriously ill person. Since we're in colder season, there are lots of people who got a cold. Together, Ann, Elizabeth and me alternates while waiting for our magic power to recover.

There are 10 people who came seeking for treatment, and we managed to finish in 30 minutes.

Immediately after we ended, the party started. Foods filled the wide dining hall in the village chief house and all the villagers were already inside. We're treated as guest of honor. Still, when I hide my presence with Stealthy Step, everyone just walks past me. What a convenient skill.

I taste a variety of dishes prepared by the villager's while drinking liquor served to me by Sati and Tilika. On the meantime, Ann and Ellie are socializing with the villagers.

They're collecting information. I'm truly saved by these excellent wives.

Even during this banquet, the hottest topic are the thieves and the drought.

If the drought continues, they will have no other choice than welcoming the winter this year with the minimum stockpile ever. They are truly grateful towards us for helping them dig the new wells and replenish the water level.

The thieves did muttered something about the water during their sleeps.

It's a troublesome thing if thieves were spotted near the vicinity. I don't know, maybe if we said that there are 7 of them, then even the soldier or the land lords will make a movement.

The hunt will cover all the mountain and it may involve lives. Even if the adventurers were coming for help, the burden will be way too heavy for the villagers.

If I've found it earlier, I'll already hunt it. I won't ask for money. Their gratitude is enough.

I don't have any intention to be remembered, so I declared that this is all help from Ann and the temple. This way, even the trust on God will increase.

Though, I've gained this ability from the God, so I'm not wrong.

I left the banquet earlier. I feel really sluggish now. I've used too

much magic power during the time we were raising the water level and treatment. Since they are familiar with the circumstances regarding magicians, they let us go soon and brought us to our room.

Today, we're staying at the village chief residence. The villagers said that they have already contacted the people at the inn.

Ellie is already staggering towards the bed. I also drank bit more sake and quickly get on the bed without doing anything else.

Another person residence.....

Next day, sixth day of the trip.

The highway crossed the ridge and moved to the flatlands, and the rural scenery comes into our view.

Coming back to my situation, just like the usual, I'm in charge of guarding the prison carriage. This is because I'm the only one who has the fastest response whenever something happens, and only Ellie and I are capable of Earth Magic. However, Ellie doesn't want to do this chore.

"By all means. Please! I don't want to do it."

"It's okay, I'll do it....."

There is no way I can refuse if my beautiful wife begged me this much.

Sati and Tilika said they want to accompany me, but if there are 3 people sitting there then the place might be cramped. We still have long journey, so it's impossible.

We arrived at the big town in the evening. It is surrounded by fine wall, like in Siory town, and surrounding it are cultivated areas.

We separated with the other merchants at the gate entrance. I went to show the gatekeeper the thieves that we've caught and explain how we encountered them. Fabio-san helped me with the

negotiation. He has worked as a merchant for a long time, so he has experience handling case like this many times before.

“Well done. After we interrogate them, we will give your reward.”

But, still. We catching the thieves is still sudden. If we want to sell them off as slaves, then we will need to wait for at least a day. That is if they hurried up with the investigation. Though, there is a genuine Truth Official within my family.

“There is no need for that. I already interrogated them.”

Suddenly, Tilika comes in front and tell them.

“Third Class Truth Officer, Tilika Yamano. I’m accompanying them for a mission.”

“A Truth Official!?”

Normal human’s doesn’t have one red eye, and the guild cards description is genuine.

Looking at her appearance I doubt anyone will worried about a spoof counterfeit card.

I think she looks legit enough, even if the people are doubting her, they will know once this process start. Or did they think that people can get away by imposing as a fraud?

Thanks to Tilika, the interrogation went smooth as butter. Based on the previous interrogation records and my explanation, they confirmed the situation.

Soon after, I received the money from selling those thieves, and it’s lesser than I expected.

“Criminals, who have killed people before, don’t sell high.”

According to Tilika, an expert in handling criminals, these criminals are usually sold to place that requires manual labor like mines or armies. Even with the enslavement and binding, the attack

prohibition commands only apply towards their master. That's why, normal people are not compelled to buy them.

Anyways, I can finally catch my breath now that the thieves' surveillance job is no more.

Including the thieves' possession, we manage to add 50 more Gold coins into our party account.

Three days of work, including subjugation and transportation, give us an equivalent of 500 thousand Yen.

Then, I'll distribute it among our party.

Although we don't spend much on travelling and living expenses, I would still like to make some money.

I wonder if we will encounter groups of Orcs on the way.

Chapter 5: Journey ④ Inago Invasion

“The number of carriages is increasing again.”

Ellie said that from here on things will get more dangerous.

The nearer we get to the Demon World, the lesser the number of humans around, to the point of extremely low. In short, we’ve reached the border.

The highways pass through a deep, deep forest, and visibility is very bad.

This is the seventh day of our trip.

The number of carriages has doubled compared to the original number that we have when we started at the first town. Others merchants keep joining in.

The number of escorts also increased together with the number of carriages, so there is no extra burden. From now on, our carriage is at the front.

That means, if we encountered demons; we are going to be the first to face them.

“Although originally, we’re not supposed to do anything unless it’s an emergency, I felt like we’ve done a lot of things.”

“If something happens, then we’ll all get involved. That’s why it’s more convenient to do it since the beginning.”

Ellie is right.

Even if the monsters are Orcs, it is impossible to fend them off all the time for an ordinary party. But if we are together, then we can come out unscathed.

Much less a danger zone like this. There are talks about a party of merchants that went missing completely without leaving a single

trace behind. If you have a strong party then it's fine to make them an avant-garde. If it's possible, I want to leave the role to someone else.

“Experience points are important.”

“That's right. And it's already been a while!”

Tilika and Ellie are fully motivated.

Up until the subjugation of the thieves, Tilika still need some more points in order to level up, but as for Ellie, she already accumulated enough to learn Level 5 Space Magic. I've sensed demons during the night we were staying in the house, but a battle never happened.

I also want experience points. The same goes for money.

But, there are still another week left for this journey. I'm getting tired of thieves that we've encountered for these past days.

“【Heal】. Alright, let's do our best today too!”

Right. Last night I was full in spirits, I thought that I'm going to get exhausted today.

No, I don't think that it was too bad overnight. We got extra income. We stayed at a better accommodation, and more interaction time for me with all them. And many more.

Just like we've discussed before departing, there will be no more scouting.

It's somewhat a good idea, since it's better to not disperse our forces in this danger zone.

Though limited, I and Sati still do some reconnaissance. Not only that, I also have Tilika to send out her Hawk, trying to expand the range of our reconnaissance. We managed to find some prey along the way.

All the demons that we've found were annihilated. We got a bit

side tracked but still, we killed them all.

Fortunately, we didn't encounter another thief after the last one. The surrounding place is filled with demons. This area is too dangerous to become a thieves working ground.

Initially, the atmosphere among us was quite heavy when the new escorts joined. Even though we're B rank, our appearance doesn't show much.

B rank? Joined the dragon suppression mission once? Isn't that the one where you shoot magic together with another 20 people? Is it really fine to leave you at the front line? Just like that it seems that our ability is being doubted.

If we truly have the ability to overwhelm a dragon, then our name and reputation will grow, yet we're still unknown. Our ranks had also risen. But our party just consisted of a leader who looks like a high school student, and four girls. There is no actual reason to be worried whether we are counted in as actual main fighting forces or not.

I don't care much about it. If they ask to prove anything, then we can fight a battle or show something. Heck, I'm rather glad that they thought that we're weak, and not counted on so much.

There are Rank Cheaters. Those people are adventurers who have a rank higher than their skills denotes. When fighting in raid party, there were times when we're allied with a strong member, and as a result the achievement is reflected on ours as well.

Of course, the guild side does exact judgment for individuals perfectly to prevent it, but it can hardly be said that it can be completely prevented. A Truth Official is only located in a big town guild like Siory Town.

It is said that the outward appearance of an adventurer should match their rank, and each adventurer is familiar with that. Although Rank Cheater rarely happens, if a monster appeared, they are still going to fight together. If the guy who's happened to be involved in defeating a dragon turn out to be useless, then some

lives might be lose.

It is possible to check our strength, but in my mind, I would like to avoid that if possible.

There is also a case where I got to fight with Fabio-san before our first departure, I asked Ellie if that is about the Rank Cheater as well.

It was when I came back after finding the Orc Settlement during the afternoon on the day we left the town, while resting up.

I joined Norman-san during our break at the resting point, and explained to him regarding the position and number of Orcs at the Orc settlement. The leaders of other escort parties were trying to find faults in my finding.

“Is what you said really true?”

I can't get away from the merchant groups for too long, that's why I return back quickly. My new formation is that I'm going to bring together with me, three people flying, chanting while entering the site and releasing upon contact. Before we know it, the Orcs were obliterated.

It's the first time I combined advanced reconnaissance ability, air battle capability and high fire power.

They were a distance between them and the main road, and I judged that there will not be any hazard towards the merchant; therefore the merchant group is not required to stop. I returned to tell them that I'll beat all of the demons. He can't believe it when I said that I have taken care of 80 Orcs.

“It's the truth.”

Tilika says it shortly.

Like usual, Tilika position as a Truth Official are hidden, and only the merchants from the first day knows about it, not those who joined later half way. That is because it is a profession that is often misunderstood with the general public as well as feared.

“It is really close to the town. I’m glad that we managed to defeat it.”

Said Ann.

“But to think that there is Orc Village in such location, etc.....”

This person is an active adventurer based at the departing town. If there really is an Orcs settlement so near with the town, things won’t be as calm.

“Ah, geez. Masaru, show them ‘that’.”

“Ah, okay.”

I wondered if I really should have declared that they are around 10 or less. But doing that will make Tilika angry.

I move to a slightly larger open area, and take out 50 Orcs carcasses at once.

Since we hit the Orcs with a powerful range magic, there are considerable number of carcasses that get seriously damaged. Thought the number is lesser than what we defeated, we filled a good number on the spot. There are still about 50 Orcs carcasses and it quickly becomes a mountain pile. It’s a pretty good sight.

“Do you want to see the record in my card?”

“No, I do not need it, its okay.”

Seems like it’s unnecessary. I recollected the mountain of carcasses quickly, but it already garnered the others attention. People from the merchant group are coming to see. I don’t want to stand out so much.....

“But this much is not that surprising? If you can use level 3 or 4 magic then this feat is pretty much acceptable.”

I asked Ellie when the other adventurers suddenly behaved themselves.

“There are four of us, including me. Besides, reaching level 4 is easier said than done.”

“So that’s it.”

Even so, they believed us. If it’s me, I’ll still have some doubts. There is no proof that I’ve hunted all of them just now.

“Masaru is scaring away the other tough adventurers.”

“Yeah.”

It’s not as scary anymore, but I am not good at it, but it does not change.

“More like they are scared towards a mage. We have the ability to obliterate a settlement in an instant. Masaru, you should be more aware of that.”

Certainly, since this guy can build a mountain of corpses in a short time! Or so. In short, they are overwhelmed.

I finally grasped it.

Regardless, the people of the merchants group became very cooperative during the hunts along the way.

In exchange, they’ve become quite scared.

Even though we hunted during daytime, we still have to work at night. Camping. Or more explicitly, creating a house.

Every time we camped, I’ll create a house for everyone. It can’t be helped. The coldness of the night of midwinter is quite severe. It’s too much for Norman-san and his group of merchants.

All I have to do is make some buildings of the same shape. Once you learn how to build it, it turned into a routine work. It’s a given that magic power is not an issue, since I have large reserve of magic power of my own.

So many houses are built in the camp, making it a bit crowded,

and all of this is for free.

However, as expected, it's a nuisance to create one for each of them. Should I start charging them money?

"Even though they are only staying for overnight, they cannot afford to spend so much?"

Anne told me.

I build a stone house that is suitable for living normally, and for now it's only for a night use. A stone bed is created for the time being, but there is no bedding.

2000 Yen, or yet this place can go up to 5000 Yen. It will be quite a sum if I collected from all of them. Better yet, since I'm the one putting an effort, all of it will become my pocket money?

"Please stop mimicking Seco already, geez....."

Since I was terrified by Ellie, I decided to receive the people good wills and end it there. Well, our monster hunting turns out to be quite profitable, but shouldn't we start thinking about the future?

I wonder how the other mages are holding up. Though, I don't have to take extra care if I make something of this degree on every trip.

"An ordinary Earth mage will run out of magic power just by making a miniscule version of this one. The fact that you can build as many as these is already strange."

By the way, it was said that the aristocrat who was a fiancé candidate of Tilika was a pretty good user of Earth Magic, but his magical power had run out with only three Golems.

Even if they are capable of it, they are still in the middle of a dangerous journey. A general action for a mage is to conserve their magic power, and not to finish all of solely for house building alone.

"We will pass this route many times. With such a fine facility, the

journey will be much easier. I was lucky to be accompanied by Masaru. I can't thank you enough!"

Norman-san shower me with thanks. It is not because of the coldness in winter alone. If there is a building, the danger at night is drastically reduced. There is not always a sufficient escort.

Because of that, since I don't want to get personally thanked by all these people, this time I act as a representative of the shrine by doing a charity work, and at the house I engrave the marking of the shrine.

Rather than being a mysterious house made by an unknown person, it would be safe for travelers to decide to be an unattended accommodation that the shrine made with volunteers, and it will surely be used safely.

And this means that Mr. Norman will appreciate the shrine through a commercial guild, which will be a great accomplishment for Anne's shrine, and instead of me, they will be thankful to Anne through the tour.

Yup. Doing a volunteer work sometimes is not bad at all.

While hunting steadily, we passed through the border zone without any problems. After going through several villages, the size of the merchant team has decreased compared to the beginning of the departure. The rest of the journey is about two more days.

It seemed that some kind of riot was occurring in the village along the road that we are passing through. A lot of villagers gathered around the gate of the village, there were several villagers who were fully armed in the highway. We stopped our carriage.

"The merchants over there stop! Locust, the locusts has come out!"

Hearing about the locust made me have a bad feeling. The insects are not particularly weak, but the insects in this world are pretty much a monster.....

After hearing the details, I was amazed. It seems that there are

also individuals that can reach up to 3 meters, which is said to be littering everything in their way while moving. They don't have any likes and dislikes. Either animals or plants, they eat everything, just like human beings.

According to the story of the villagers that we met, they come in great numbers. Since they come at full speed, there is no way to get an accurate measure.

It is said that an adult has a strength equal to or higher than an Orc. If an ordinary villager is coming out like this, it's an act akin to suicide.

They can only evacuate. If the locusts are coming, then they can only run away.

Fortunately, the locust stops at some location if there is something to eat on the course, so it seems that their movement speed is not very high.

And locusts are fickle. Nobody knows which way it will go. It may come to the village and go to the other side.

But the other side of the pass is the village where Nania is located□□

“I already farmed around this area for years.”

“Hurry! Hurry! Run away before locusts come!”

“Wah, aah!”

“When the locusts arrives, the village will□□”

“Why does this kind of thing must happen.....”

The children are crying, and the villagers are muttering in despair while packing in rush.

This village too, has a huge wall surrounding it. But that alone is not enough to hinder the giant locusts.

The Garland Fortress is right after we get through the pass. There, the army is a permanent resident. Since the locust is becoming an obstacle, it's impossible to notify those beyond the pass. It takes about 2 days to reach the fortress from here. The town in the direction we have come from the other side is even more further.

Everyone gazes fall on us. As if saying, are you capable of suppressing them? That's what they are implying.

But nobody voices it out. The opponent is a group of monsters in a size where a military need to be dispatched. Even though we're a B rank party, no matter how you think about it, it's just too much a burden. It's a given.

"What should we do?"

"How, there is no choice but to do it."

I honestly think that there is no other choice. How about we notify the fortress and have them send reinforcements? Since we can fly, we can get through the pass easily.

"I don't know the exact size of their swarms, but they can inflict serious damage to the army. It's a question whether you are capable of annihilating them or not."

Although there is surely a mage among the army, they are still from the border's fortress. I don't know how much their strength is. Even if we follow up with the plan, it will take two days on the way here. Thinking about the time to notify them and making battle preparation will take three days or four easily.

In the end, it will be faster if we deal with them ourselves.

"For now, I'll go take a look."

"No matter how much a B rank can do, it is....."

The villagers are sceptical. The group of locusts is not something that five people can handle alone. I was told that we might attract them to here faster, and instead of that we better help in evacuating the villagers.

“It will be fine. Just leave everything to us!”

Ellie is always confident. However, the villager’s unnecessary anxiety is shown when looking at her.

“Ah, there is nothing to be worried for. Four of us are mages, so our combine firepower is impressive.”

A bunch of locust will not be a problem.

“We’re a party that will rise to S rank. Killing some locusts is a breeze!”

According to Ellie, our firepower alone is no inferior to any S rank party.

However, there are doubts that we’ve ranked up as a Rank Cheater. It is unnecessary to tell them about the S rank thing just to catch some villager’s attention, Ellie-san.....

Chapter 6: Journey ⑤ Annihilation

The merchants and the escorts were to be evacuated with the other villagers. We are the only ones who are going.

Fabio-san said that he will join during the fight with the locusts, but things will go smoother if we did all the job alone.

I decided to walk together with everyone to the location. We get to know the size of their group and their position because they were mostly discovered by Hawk, since the locusts are also flying. The sky is not safe, and it's also troublesome to reduce our magic capability by using Levitation or Fly.

“The locusts are edible, aren't they.....?”

“I've ate them once. The taste is quite okay.”

Ann said.

“I've never eat them before. “

Tilika seems to be interested with what Ann had said.

“Yeah, yeah. Let's save a couple of them. We'll try taste test it later.”

It's said that insects are a source of high protein. Since the locusts are around, I think this is a good time to have a taste of them.

“How do you cook locusts?”

Sati asked Ann. We continue to progress while talking about the good stuff.

For now, we already know the identity of the monsters and their location. My detection doesn't catch up anything yet. So relaxing.

“This swarm of locusts only happen once in a decade. This timing is very good.”

Ellie said while sighing.

“Timing?”

“The God Quest.”

I see. This? So, this is the quest?

“They will surely go towards Nania’s place.”

“That’s the most likely.”

“If we’re late, then Nania’s village will get destroyed. If the timing isn’t good, then God know how much damage will occurred.”

I open the menu and check the quest.

【Quest: Help Nania】

Nania who is unfamiliar with a farmer life required a help.

This quest is not time limited, but it is advised that you better not going to the Capital.

Reward: 5 skill points for the whole party

Doesn’t it write here to help Nania-san who is struggling with her new life? Then God should have written about the locusts.

Ah, but if such thing was written down, then Ellie will run out of control. Perhaps, this degree of expression is good enough.

“Let’s do this.”

I don’t feel that motivated, but if this is connected with the quest, then I have no choice but to carry it out.

“Yes, let’s go!”

I feel a bit motivated.

“Masaru-sama.....”

Sati looks at me anxiously. The locusts have not come to our view yet, but their noises has already reach my ears.

□□*locusts noise*

As we approached nearer, the noise gradually increases in magnitude.

I got caught up in the mood just now, but truthfully, I'm scared. I've wanted to run away for a while already now.

The mountain was covered with locusts, nicely forming a curve along the mountainous pass. Although I already heard about it from Tilika's report, the actual sight is pretty staggering, a nightmarish kind of spectacle.

“Wow.....”

As far as my detection goes, I can only detect huge swarm of locusts feasting all over the place. Only little plants and young trees are left. A large number of locusts were attached on a big tree, eating all the leaves. The locusts are green in colour and varied in size. The smallest one is about the size of a kitten. Together with the small one is several big one, flying towards the villages' direction.

“If we don't seriously do this, things will get ugly.....”

“Y-yeah, you're right.”

The carcasses might get charred off if I obliterated them with a strong Fire Magic, and there will be nothing left to sell for money. However, for a large swarm like this, that is not something that I can help with.

By the way, there is no reward for this hunt. Even the smallest locust is counted as one, so if the Guild were to pay for each of them, they will go bankrupt. However, their carcasses can be sold for a reasonable price as a food ingredient. So that's not a problem.

“To be honest, I would like to request for a reward.”

Ellie seems dissatisfied since there is no reward to be looking up for.

Our strategy is, first, I'll shoot my most powerful magic. Afterward, I'll annihilate the remaining locusts with everyone else.

The initial plan is to unleash joint magic like usual, but this time there are too much enemies. This time, I need to give my best. Those that would get hit by my magic will most likely be unchangeable with money, but considering the situation, it can't be helped.

"This is a quest issued by the God Himself. Doing it free of charge isn't bad at all."

"Well, of course it's fine for you Ann. Myself, I need money."

"That's why I said we need to bring up the issue regarding the rewards money....."

"I don't need to be indebted to Ann, I can do just fine with Nania alone."

"We're a family now. There is no need to be so reserved."

"I can't do that."

"Yes, yes. The bunker is going to be done soon."

I'm planning to shoot the Meteor down, but I'm unsure how much power it holds. Although, for the time being, we have taken a good distance away. Considering the possible destructive power that it might have, I decided to build a semi-underground safe place with Earth Magic. Besides, if the survived locusts come here, we are capable of overwhelming them.

After everyone get inside the bunker, I close the entrance with a boulder. We're completely cut-off with the outside, except for a small opening as a window. Since we're capable of detection, we can still sense the locust's movement outside. No problem.

"It's quite cramped."

“Just for a little while longer. Be patient.....”

I take a look at Tilika.

“The locusts have started moving.”

Said Tilika.

I start chanting. 【Meteor】 □□

“This is bad. Just like I initially suspected, they are aiming for Nania-san village next.”

I concentrate on my magic power. I’m going to increase the area of effect as far as possible. I must annihilate all of them without exception.

“Hawk, evacuate.”

A huge amount of magic power converges inside of my body.

My body starts getting hot.

It’s hard to control magic power without a proper state of mind. A huge amount of magic power, unlike anything that I’ve seen before, is squeezed out of my body.

I can no longer afford to take a look outside. It’s likely that it would misfire unless I give my full concentration.

I don’t ever recall the probability of chanting with a Cheat Skill is 100%. This might fail if I’m not careful.

The pain is unbearable. My magic power has risen up to a level which was unseen before.

This is my best shot. There’s no way I can redo this again.

Normally, when your concentration is disturbed during chanting, the magic power will merely scatter. However, this time they’re densely packed. There is no telling what will happen.

The casting time should have been halved due to my High-Speed

Chant level 5, but this is taking forever.

I clench my teeth and continue concentrating.

My magic power is getting dense, that now it's possible to physically touch them within this bunker.

Soon.

Just a little bit more.

However, my control and concentrating is already nearing the limit.

I won't be able to continue any longer soon.....

Just a bit more left□□

The long chant is finally over, and the Meteors is activated.

Surprisingly, after my magic power was channelled out, my legs turned weak and I get on my knees.

I'm trying my best to retain my consciousness. I'm looking forward to see the result through the small window opening.

The previously clean weather without any clouds are getting dimmer.

A myriad of meteors glowing in red are filling the sky and falling from high altitudes towards the swarms of locusts.

The dark sky instantly turns red.

“Wind Wall.”

As planned, Ellie deployed the wall of wind in front of the bunker.

“It's falling. Cover your ears!”

It's a better idea for us to cower under the bunker, instead, we keep an eye's on the apocalyptic sight.

A large number of meteorites is falling to the ground while making a thunderous sound.

In an instant, a large explosion occurs and the ground shakes violently.

The sound and the impact reach the bunker, and the roaring sounds reverberates clearly through my head even though I've already covered my ears.

The dusts rouse quickly, turning the area dim again, avoiding of any sunlight.

Darkness and silence dominates the area.

My ears are still ringing.

This is overkill.

No matter how you look at it, this is clearly overdone.....

Sati is crouching while covering her ears. She is trembling and keeping her eyes shut.

Both Ann and Tilika worriedly nursed her.

Ellie is saying something to me, but I can't hear them well.

What is this? What happened?

Last time when I used it, it doesn't pack this much firepower. During that time, I suppressed it a bit before unleashing it.

The area is still dim, but it's gradually turned brighter.

I stored the boulder and rushed out.





The mountain was scrapped off, lots of craters were made on the ground and the area are burning all over. I can't see through the smoke, but it's doubtful whether they are any living thing that are capable of surviving after this much. My detection didn't catch any reaction.

The four of them came out from the bunker and witness the aftermath of the meteorites impact.

All the trees and living beings who once belong natively are now gone. It's like a scene from hell itself.

"T-this is more powerful than I thought."

Finally, my ears got better as I heard Ellie's voice.

I'm unable to give her any reply. All my magic power is now depleted, and now I feel lethargic.

"W-what in the world....."

"For the time being, we need to put out the fire."

"Right. Masaru and Sati take a break first. We'll try to put out the fire by pouring down water from above."

Yeah, I beg you. I don't have much magic power left."

"Shouldn't you replenish your magic power?"

That's what Ann said, but I want to give priority on extinguishing the fire. If we don't hurry, a forest fire going to happen.

"It's fine. Putting out the fire only requires magic power. There may have been some surviving locust."

I take out the MP potion from the Item Box and drink it. I also chugged down the Magi tea. Afterwards, I feel a bit relieved.

I'm going to wait till both Tilika and Ann have fly away.

For now, we're going to put off the fire, but what if the terrain completely changes.....

The ground is full of holes. The main road has completely disappeared.

I wonder if I can cover them up by fixing them with Earth Magic. That might be impossible.

When I check the menu, my level has risen by 4.

What? My HP has decreased to half.....although, I shouldn't have suffered any damage aside from tinnitus. Don't tell me, that my HP was converted to magic power during casting???

"Hmm? What wrong, Sati?"

I was sitting while checking the menu. In the meanwhile, sat sideways and stared at me. Our eyes met.

"Masaru sama is really amazing after all."

"Yeah, the Meteor was really amazing."

It's more than I initially expected. It's likely to blow all enemies even if the power is halved.

Plus, with my MP Consumption Reduction level 5, the amount of magic power that I should have consumed will remain as half. Meaning that, I require another half, no, the increase in the consumption is about one third?

This means that the magic consumption is six times over. It's not amusing that the Meteor's power is excessive. This also explains the difficulty to control my concentration.

What if I fail to control it back then? This magic of pure destruction will run amok. Me, all of us will definitely get caught into it.....

Next time, I should refrain myself from using Meteor. No, even for other magic, consuming all magic power at once is a bad idea. It's safer to limit them to half.

The fire extinguishing is progressing smoothly, and steams are rising from the site.

I feel like my magic power is completely exhausted. I can barely see anymore. As expected, the locusts were all wiped out.

That's right, the quest.

I open the menu and check out the quest, but apparently there is no change with the quest status.

The condition to clear the quest is not eliminating the locusts.....? Does this mean that they are not eliminated completely yet? Do I need to go meet Nania-san after this? Or is it because Nania-san trouble is just an ordinary one, just that we encountered the locusts purely by chance?

For now, I'll ask the question in the diary first. I wonder if I'll get any reply.

After a while, the three of them came back.

"I roughly sprinkled water around, but the fire is mostly gone."

"As far as we can tell, all locusts were annihilated."

"I'm going to go take a look around."

Tilika's familiars are extremely useful. Originally, the task to look around fall on us. Initially, I thought that it'll be a burden on Tilika, turns out that they can move independently with the simplest of instruction. They differ a lot compared to my Golem.

"Only bits of them are left for recovery."

"They were burnt very nicely."

They are completely burnt. I'll try sprinkling some salt and water later.

In the meantime, we need to inform the villagers and merchants that the locusts are all taken care of. We can't proceed though since the terrain were destroyed. Our carriages can't pass through unless the road is repaired first.

"Ann, will you spare me some magic power? I want to fix the main road."

"I'm fine with it, but rather shouldn't you rest for today? It's fine to fix the road tomorrow."

But, I want to fix this mess before anyone else sees it.

Ann transfer some magic power to me. My HP recovered after a while.

The area is full of craters, more than I expected. The depth is about my height and it is four to five-meter wide. This scenery spread as far as eyes can see.

The burnt smell got stuck at my nose. The burned trees and locusts are all over the shop. The ground was wet due to the previous fire extinguishing measure. There are steams rising up.

Previously, when I tested out the Meteor, the ground doesn't get full of holes like this. My intention is to increase the area of effect only, but I wonder if the firepower is proportionally increase together. I should test it 2 or 3 more times when I have the time.

In fact, there are many other ways to verify it, but there are many other things that should be given priority.

I want to take time lazing around. I want to flirt more with my wives.

I still need to gather more information regarding the impending doom of this world. We need to self- strengthening ourselves to survive too.

I felt very satisfied, but then I remembered that I've work 100 times harder than when I was in Japan.....

Chapter 7: Journey ⑥ Arrival

With the remaining magic power, I'm using Earth Magic to repair the broken road by burying the soil that I've dug around at the nearby area. The burnt smell is likely not going to disappear anytime soon. In my opinion, the repaired road doesn't look all that bad.

"Fixing the road is nice and all, but doesn't it feel like a waste to use magic power just to block the craters?"

Ellie seems to be bored of waiting.

But, this area is full of holes now. No matter how you look at it, it's strange. This main road is usually crowded with people going to the big town. If there's a person intrigued enough to find out, it'll be just a matter of time before they discovered that we were the ones who did it when we were eradicating the locusts. They will definitely won't be happy.

Thanks to those four people hard works, we somehow manage to control the fire. However, there was nothing that can be done about the charred woods. Though, since there are no longer big craters nearby, we can simply say that the forest was burned by Fire Magic.

The area that got destroyed by the Meteor is in smaller perimeter than I initially expected. The boundary is visible once we walked around. The aftereffects are still lingering around. The visibility is as worse as ever due to the rising steam and dusts. Still, the affected ground can easily cover a few ballparks and football field.

Fabio-san came when I was nearly depleted of the magic power that I've received from Ann.

"What in the world....."

The trees at the impact site has suddenly disappeared. The main road looks beautiful, as if just recently paved. The land nearby looks like in a state of vegetation. The burnt smell is still lingering

around. When he looks closely, there're several big holes that can't be completely covered up.

It's a scenery full of mysteries.

Fabio-san is acting as a leader for the evacuating group. From the look of it, the Meteor was not visible to them. However, after they've escaped far away, he returned back here to take a look and to confirm the situation.

"The locusts are completely annihilated."

Ellie declared smugly.

"Is that the truth? I'm going to inform this to everyone ASAP!"

Fabio-san took a quick look around, and then ran down the slope. His horse is probably tied down there.

"He's quite a thoughtful person, that guy."

"No need to spare them all the details. The most important thing is that the locusts are completely annihilated."

Nobody saw the Meteor, so everything is good? But I'll fill the holes up anyway, just in case.

"You really hate to be conspicuous as usual."

"I'll be in trouble if my identity as an apostle was found out."

"You cannot be an apostle just because you can use a high-ranking magic alone."

Is that so?

No matter what, I don't want news such as myself wielding weird power to spread around.

The event today slowly instills me with quite bit of confidence.

Perhaps, even if the Demon King appeared, I might be able to defeat him. Cheat magic is too strong.

If my identity as an apostle was found out, then they will know that the world is ending after 20 years.

Just look at how powerful this Meteor impact is. There is no doubt that they will appoint me as the Hero.

No matter what happens, the final battle is unavoidable.

However, just because I've enough strength, doesn't mean that things would become easier. Take the Orc King as an example. That time, I easily got badly injured. If it's capable of shooting arrows behind our back, then we'll long be dead.

The gap between our defense and our offense is that big.

I realized it several times during my Special Training with Sergeant-Dono. Just because we've strengthened and raised our level, we still can't bear a wound inflicted on our body, be it a cut from arrow or sword, or directly hit by magic.

Human can die easily with a stab of a knife.

If we recklessly charged into the battlefield, it won't matter how many lives you have.

There is no convenient thing such as a resurrection magic in this world.

"But, I've never met a high-ranking mage other than Ellie."

Maybe there exists several other mages who are capable of this feat.

"There are many mages among the nobles. They're as good as those from the Knight Squad and the Military Corps. Many of them become an adventurer and work as a mage."

Even during our defensive battle at Gorbas Fortress, I didn't actually notice, but there were actually many active mages who participated in the battle. However, as soon as their magic power run out, they immediately took a break, so their actual active time is short.

I didn't know about that since I was busy treating the people at the shrine.

Of course, they are among the nobles as well.

The number of mages who wished to become an adventurer are also dwindling.

There is no major attack during the last 10 years. Even before that, for a very long time, there was no attacks massive enough to take down a country.

During this peaceful period, the number of mages at the frontline are getting lesser. The demons are still treated as a dangerous being, but within this Human Realm, normal adventurers are enough to handle them.

Rather than taking down the demons, its already been a long practice to make profits by using the Earth Magic to build houses or castles. The old one will retire, and the fresh graduates will fill the space at the private company.

The safe and profitable works are more desirable compared to the unstable and unsafe job of an adventurer. I can understand it well.

Then, without battle experience, they won't be able to grow into a high-ranking mage easily.

That is a good thing on its own. If the amount of magic user increase among the civilians, the economy will become better.

If you look at the area nearby to the Demon Realm, we can see lots of damage remaining, all caused by the demons. However, the Kingdom and the Empire are vast and powerful. Although the one at the border are devastated, it's still not accounted as a major thing as a whole.

From the looks of it, that is what the residents of this world regarded as peace, when it's treated as dangerous period if in Japan.

While waiting for Tiger to finish scouting, I chatted with

everyone else. Not long after, it came back. There's not much except for several locusts that he managed to catch. This way, we can finally confirm that all locusts are eradicated.

We walk back towards the village leisurely, and there I can see that the villagers are returning.

The villagers were thankful towards us. They offered us rewards, but I politely decline.

It was an easy task for us to annihilate the locusts since they were not a great demon. I explained to the villagers that my action doesn't deserve a reward.

I came into understanding during this trip that this year around there are lesser rains in this area. Even if they want to reward us, they can't give much, and even that might be enough to harm their livelihood.

It's apparent that this village is having difficulty financially. It's hard for them to give out money.

Even Ellie, who's having money trouble, doesn't say otherwise.

That's why I won't accept this young lady.

Nevertheless, this young lady doesn't show any sign of being forced, plus she is beaming with happiness.

"If you are married to a competent mage, then your life is secured. Besides, it's an often case where strong magic traits are inherited to the child."

Ann explains so.

Does that mean, that they want my offspring? Such an attractive offer, if only my wives are not staring dagger to me. Scary.

"Goodness. We're declining in Masaru stead."

Well, if I increase another one, I don't think my body can handle the addition. It's such a waste though, seeing that she is such a cute

young lady. Ah, I'm sorry. Please don't scowl at me like that, Tilika-san.

We're accepting the villagers offer to stay at the village today. It's hard to thread through this mountainous pass during this time of the day. Besides, as the main escorts, our magic power are at the bottom.

A banquet was held at the village that night. It's twice as painful today because I've completely used up my magic power. I went back to our room after getting some magic power from Ann.

Since I'm sleeping on the same bed as Ann, there is no way I won't get into the mood. However, today we're staying at the village chief's house instead of the inn. It's frustrating how I need to abstain myself. No, maybe, if I do it secretly.....

"Of course, you can't."

It's useless. Ann is particularly strict about it.

"After we reached our destination, let's take our time doing it then."

"You're right. Plus, we can use Transfer to directly to go back home."

If possible, I would like to take a vacation for about one month or so. I'm sure that this is the big event, and after this we only need to take our time helping Nania san out.

Today, I'll endure myself by hugging Ann's soft body to sleep.

The main dish for the party is some baked locusts, provided by Ellie.

The village boasted it's cooking skill, and Tilika commented that their cooking actually tastes really good.

During breakfast, I was given the leftover from last night. I ate some, but aside from the taste, the visuals are not appealing at all.....as expected, this dish is not for me.

Before we left, I make a last inspection to make sure that all craters are covered.

Two days later. We finally arrived at our destination, Garland Fortress.

It's a bit on the smaller side compared to Gorbas Fortress. Still, it's a massive fortress, hosting many residential insides.

We unload the goods at the fortress Merchant Guild. There, we parted away with Norman-san and Fabio-san. There are going to stay for few days, and afterwards, they're going back.

As for us, we're dropping by at the fortress Adventurer Guild. We'll only go to Nania-san once we finished handing out our kills, and collecting our subjugation rewards.

I actually feel a tad bit reluctant, but knowing full well the extent of the surrounding monsters is a life and death matter to Adventurer Guild. There is no way I won't report them.

"The locusts you said?!?"

"But my magic annihilated them all in one shot....."

I explained the outcome to the surprised guild staff. Afterwards, he feels relieved and his face soften.

"They didn't come out in the amount where the army or guilds members needs to be dispatched, aren't they? I'm glad that they were in smaller scale."

"Ah, yeah. I agree."

"Please let me examine your card."

Ah, here."

I've no choice but to let them see my card, since it's required for confirmations of my hunts.

I let him check the other four first.

The checkup went smoothly until Tilika's turn. He examines Tilika carefully. After all, it's weird for a Truth Official to join an adventurer party.

"As expected of a B rank. How marvelous for you guys to sweep up this many monster during a trip."

Lastly, I gently passed my card.

The cards recorded all the demons that I've taken down. Right now, 20 are displayed from the new minutes on one screen. The old kills can be viewed by scrolling the screen. After they're checked, the staff will put a confirmation mark with a special magic tool provided by the guild.

The guild staff continues checking my card, and after a while, his expressions turns fuzzier. Then, he completely stopped, and stared hard on my face.

"Excuse me.....how many of 'them' have you defeated?"

"That is.....there are too much of them, so I don't know....."

There is no subjugation reward since they are not a strong monster. I don't think that it's something worth mentioning, so thought that they'll simply glance through it. But apparently, that's not the case.

The guild staff resumes his checks.

After a few minutes, he finally finished counting.

"All of it, with just a single shot.....?"

"Well, you see.....it's a range magic, so, I wonder why....."

I don't mean to say it as one-shot.

"Pl-please wait a moment. I'm going to call the top officer."

While holding my card, the guild officer hurriedly walked to the back.

“It’s not something that is possible to hide. Just give up.”

“Do you think it’s possible for me to say that that they’re just small locusts?”

“Then, you’re lying.”

“Right.”

“It’s wrong of you if you don’t report stuff like this properly.”

“Right.....”

After a while, a guy who seems to be the Guild Chief came out. Based on his physique, he might be an adventurer himself.

I explain to him quietly regarding the full scale of the locust’s invasion and how they were killed. I take out the bit about Meteor though. I only tell him that I used a long-range Fire Magic. The Guild Chief is interested to know, but it’s not something that can easily imitated albeit knowing the full details.

“Is this all true?”

After we finished reporting, I get press on by the Guild Chief. It’s an appropriate response towards a young adventurer like us. He somehow resembles the Vice Chief, but I feel more comfortable with Vice Chief treatment.

“Everything is the truth.”

Tilika says with a slightly inclined voice.

“W-well, of course that’s the case.”

The number of subjugation recorded on the card is a group of locusts on a scale which the military will act. It was supposed to be a huge disaster. I killed it with a single magic before the damage was done. Aside from the villagers, the ones who saw the locusts are only our party.

The report on the card is absolute. There is also the testimony

from a Truth Official. Though, I understand his feeling of doubts whether all of this is a mistake. But there is no merit for the guild to dwell on that matter any longer than necessary. The reason was, the locusts doesn't come with a punitive reward.

An honor, from subjugating bunches of locusts, maybe? I rather hide the fact where I'm, the actual preparator.

In the end, the guild decided that we won't get a reward, but under Guild Chief discretion, he decided to give us bounty.

Then the trouble come. It's impossible to hide the fact regarding the locust's suppression, and I don't want it to be too spread out. However, if rewards were paid, they cannot hide the confidential.

It's a requirement to put out the subdue name. If that's not met, they can't withdraw guild money. Because then, the Guild Chief might be suspected of an embezzlement.

"We don't need any rewards money."

It's a waste, but it's wiser to give up here.

Even without the money, we should be doing just fine. For now, I'll refrain from being conspicuous as much as possible. Ellie is the only one with a money trouble.

"Wait! What is your deal, refusing the rewards money like that!"

As soon as we leave the guild, Ellie starts snarling. She's been glaring at me since a little while ago.

"Calm down. I got a better idea."

"What? Good way to earn money?"

"No. It's not a method to earn money. What I want to say is □□"

Money isn't necessarily the choice. We can get the pay through labour.

I don't know the details of agriculture, but I'm an expert in using

the Earth Magic. In the middle of our journey, I learnt a new thing□□housebuilding.

“Don’t you think it’s possible for me to start our own plantation, by using my Earth Magic?”

House, field and waterway. I wonder if we need a wall? I’m experienced in building a wall, heck, if I try my best, I might be able to build like those fortresses. I explained the plan to Ellie.

“That is a very good idea! Let’s start some really good plantation at Nania’s place!”

No, rather than helping out, I was thinking about this in term of paying your debt off.....that’s what I honestly thought, though, I can’t say it while looking at Ellie smiling happily like that.

Well, maybe I’ll consult Olba-san, the husband.

Chapter 8: Agricultural Development Magic

Nania-sans village, Largano, is one of the villages scattered around the Garland Fortress. It's about 2 to 3 hours walking distance from the fort.

We left the guild and started flying once we exited the fortress. Ellie is with Ann, while I'm carrying both Tilika and Sati at my back and front.

Ellie went to the village once, so she knows the way.

It's a small village surrounded with walls. The nearby area is fully utilised for plantation and there we often see people working while flying over.

Before I know it, Ellie has landed nearby the gate. I don't have much choice but to land on my side.

Five people suddenly got off from the sky. There is only one gatekeeper. It's not an exaggeration to say that it might be a surprise attack.

"W-who are you?"

A surprised gatekeeper came to me and raise a shout.

"We're not a suspicious people."

However, when a person whose face is covered with a black robe said that, it doesn't sound convincing at all.

Sure enough, the gatekeeper turns vigilant with that single sentence alone. He immediately pressed the alarm at the gate. It was located at a position that can be ring easily.

"Ellie, please be silent....."

Ann who just recovered from the rough landing pushed Ellie aside. She is still not standing stably.

Flying magic allows lot of flexibility during mobility. Since we control the movement just by thinking, it's possible to make a sudden stop. It's fun to do a sharp turn too.

However, in extreme case of manoeuvring, there are cases where the user loses consciousness and led to catastrophe accident. When flying, we should consider our own limit to ensure safe flight. It was Ellie who taught me the fundamental, but the first flight was rough. The person who initiate the Fly himself might be fine, but the passenger might not be able to take it.

“I'm from the priesthood.”

When the beautiful Ann declared so, the guard immediately shows relief. If it's a priest, even if they come to visit small village, people won't be alerted and they're usually accepted everywhere. It's safer to leave the communication to Ann. It's not because I'm too shy nor the gatekeeper appearance is too scary. It's about the right person at the right place.

“What a surprise, a priest from the shrine. Welcome. Do you have any business at this village?”



Just to be sure, they examined her card and found out that she is a genuine priest. Afterwards, the gatekeeper instantly turns polite.

“The people who we’re looking for are in this village. I’m sure there are people who are named Olba and Nania in this village.”

Turk-san should be in this village too, well, it's fine. The quest target is Nania-san.

"I'm one of their former party member. I've come to visit."

Ellie said from the side.

"So, you're from Dawn Battle-axe!"

Although they went back to their hometown due to retirement injury, they're still a B Rank Dragon slayer. They're heroes in this village, famous people.

"Where are they?"

"They are currently outside the village. They went towards there, around the entrance of the forest."

It's a distance that cover about 30 minutes by walking. The location is about 2 km from the village.

"Thank you so much. Then, we're going."

After getting directions from the gatekeeper, we off to Fly again. I'm chasing after Ellie who went full speed ahead, and the forests comes into view soon after.

"We've arrived. They are over there."

Sati points to a direction with her finger. We can see several people are working inside the forests. Ellie also noticed and make a turn. Following after her, I make a gentle turn. I bet Ann got swing around real hard over there.

We landed in front of the forest. Ellie quickly landed, left Ann right there and ran towards the forest.

I can already see a silhouette that resembles Nania-san. Ellie probably saw that too. We're heading right towards there.

I let Ellie who finally reunited with Nania-san alone, and went to greet Olba-san.

“Long time no see, Olba-san.”

Among them, there are also several others young people helping out and carrying the logs outside the forest. They are ten stacks of cut down tree at the edge of the forest.

Afterwards, I listened to his story. He wants to return back to his hometown to start plantation, but there are no farmlands available or put on sale. In this case, people usually go to the neighbouring village. But, true to his wish, he really wants to stay at his own hometown.

In the end, starting from yesterday, he finally got permission to open the forest nearby for cultivating use.

It's a hard job to clear out the forest, but there is farm right besides, complete with waterway. Plus, the distance from the village is just moderate.

A handful of youngsters from the village lend them a helping hand, creating a small group. As a reward for their helps, Olba-san decided to start a swordsmanship class.

He cut down the forest trees one by one, dog them up and pull out the root. He took the trees and turn them to woods. They're some small trees and weeds, and the place is quite rocky. He's choosing a flat land, but nonetheless, it'll not be a farm land unless the element is all balanced.

For the time being, he planned to ready this farmland by spring, and expand it years later.

This another world is a dangerous place where people need to confine their residences behind a wall. However, even though I've stayed outside, there is no risk of death yet so far. Though, if you live for a year or two, then there is no escape from a monsters assault at least once or twice.

At one time, there are people who are staying outside, but they didn't manage to last for long.

Eventually, they all gathered and build a wall. In case of

emergency, it's impossible to survive unless they amass enough strength by fighting together.

For example, even if you manage to find a good location to start a farmland somewhere, it's not an easy task to start cultivation. First of all, it's necessary to build a safe place for residency. That's the reason to why there are lots of free land outside the perimeter of the village area.

“So, why are Masaru and everyone else here? I hope it's not one of Ellie selfish whims.”

The reason we are here is because of the quest issued by God, but there is no way I'm going to tell him that.

“Just Ellie being selfish.”

Whether it's about God Quest or setting a transfer point for Ellie's gate, both got Ellie involved and it is hard to explain. If I told him the reason is simply because Ellie want to see Nania-san, then it will sound better than making other excuses.

“Ah, somehow I feel really sorry for you guys.....”

There is no actual reason for him to feel responsible since Ellie is my wife. However, the pang that he felt might come from him taking care of her for 4 years previously as the party leader.

“Well, that is about half of it, but we do have other business as well.”

“Did you come here to see the elf?”

“Ah, you're right. That's also one of it. We want to go sightseeing lots of things.”

Yes, the Elf. Garland Fortress is directly connected to the Demon Realm, and directly adjacent to the Demon World is the Elven Forest. The forest is an independent territory of the elves where lots of elves live inside. While ordinary people are prohibited from entering, there are still economics transaction and the elves do come to the fort once in a while.

“Elves! I want to see them!”

“It would be the best if we can stay here for a while, Sati.”

“Yes!”

“I think it would be a good idea to take on the escort mission for the merchant group going to the Elven Forest. Ellie is a B rank, so they might accept.”

A quest to join a group going to Elven Forest is incredibly popular. People with a higher rank are usually given priority.

“Ah, I manage to become a B rank too just recently.”

“When I first met you, you’re just an E rank, right.....?”

I rise up to D rank after the Dragon subjugation quest, C rank after the battle at Gorbas Fortress, B rank after returning from the forest and the special training. When I think about it, my rank risen in quite a fast pace.

“There is no reason for you to become so reckless, you know?”

“At first, Ellie suggested for us to go to the Demon Realm. Of course, I stopped her then.”

“I-I really am sorry. Albeit being a mage, she is an aggressive one. Perhaps, that is the result of me spoiling her for a long time. Should I give her a lecture to be more cautious?”

“Don’t be, Ellie has been a great help to us. After all, she is the one with the most experience in our party.”

She did have few a moments where she overdid things, but she is still 17 years old. It’s unthinkable to expect too much from her. By all rights, as a leader and a senior, I should be the one people are counting onto. If I asked for more, I’ll be punished.

“If everything works well then it is good.”

At that time, Ellie suddenly broke into our conversation.

“Masaru, Olba! Let’s start discussing about that!”

“Which what?”

“Cultivating a new land!”

It’s already late afternoon, but I still have some leftover magic power since I’ve only used them for flying only. I decided to check out what kind of work I want to do starting from tomorrow.

“Let’s burn this part with magic. On my mark.”

If I used Meteor, the forest will completely disappear. But the land will be full of craters. Other than that, I can simply burn it down, but I’m afraid the fire will get contagious.

“Collect the usable woods, Ellie. You can put it at the neighbouring farmland.”

Olba-san gives Ellie instruction.

Naturally, I rejected Ellie initial plan. I decided to continue cutting down the trees just like the others.

In the meantime, I borrowed the axe used by the young man who helped for cutting down the tree. They already work for a full day, so right now they are taking a break. A team consisting of Tilika, Ann and Ellie collected the logs by using Levitation.

I’m pulling out even the roots. It’s an easy task if I dig them with Earth Magic.

Big trees aside, there are also shrubs, weeds rocks fallen trees and many other obstructing objects. We need to clear all of them.

Now that I think about it, always, when I watched a TV shows about farming at Japan, I’ve actually never seen a cultivation process since the beginning. When I do it manually without machines help, it feels more laborious than I expected.

I pick up all the obstructive trees and big rocks inside my Item Box, and put them at the side of our planned cultivation land.

Even Ellie who hates chores are working for Nania-san sakes. She is doing a lot of the work.

It took us about an hour to recover the woods and collect it. We managed to secure a large farmland as planned. The sun has already set. It's possible for me to light the surrounding area with magic, so it's still possible to work at night. However, putting that much effort on the first day is just too much.

Including today's works, a new addition of lands is added to the one they have previously cleared before.

“Really, once a mage starts helping, all works can be done earlier.”

That's what Olba-san said, but I've only cleared out the big trees and rocks. Honestly, I would like to clear out the weeds, pebbles, and the others. But then it'll become too troublesome. It's already sunset, so we don't have much time left.

Wouldn't it be possible to continue the work with only Earth magic past this stage?

“If we use Earth magic, I get a feeling that everything can be finished in one go.”

“Um, I don't know if it will succeed, but I think that it's worth the try. This way, the weeds and the soil might be mixed together.”

Ann is a bit sceptical.

“Let's do it!”

Ellie immediately agreed, hoping that the workloads are going to decrease.

“Alright, let's have a try. Not like we can continue working today anyways.”

Everyone else evacuated.

I get a firm grasp by using Earth Sonar. There was a huge rock at

the shallow bottom underground. I pulled it out with Earth magic, an isolated it inside my item box. It's robust and have a nice shape, so it's a good natural boulder material. It's for the best to keep it.

Overlooking the planned farm destination, I got on my knees and put both of my hands on the ground to refine the image. I must transform this weedy-rich place to a land suitable for agriculture.

I reclaimed the Earth. I minced the fallen leaves and weeds together in the process. Water is an essential. I don't want these pebbles. I'm going to crush it thoroughly.

I put the most important imagine. A land that can produce bountiful crops which can be harvested yearly, a very rich land.

This is the first time I'm using this magic. Carefully, I consolidate the image and concentrated my magic power.

I activated the Earth magic.

The Earth reverberates slightly and it raises up. The remaining shrubs and weeds were swallowed by the soil in a blink of an eye.

It became one flat brown surface, with an area about 50 meter squared.

Everyone went to the newly constructed farmland to inspect it. Soft, watery, and damped soil, as if it's okay to sow the seed right at the moment. The soil release it latent heat, and little steams can be seen rising.

The magic power consumption isn't much. If I do this for a day, then it's possible to secure a vast farmland.

"Not bad at all. As expected of my husband."

Ellie is in great delight. Nania-san seems happy to be shown this new place.

"Now, what's left is to construct the wall. Hmm, there is still tomorrow, so I'll continue then."

“No, no, please wait a second. I’ve never seen such kind of Earth magic before. Just how did you do it!?”

What Ann said is reasonable. Even if she asked for details, I simply don’t know. But, the water comes from the air, and the rock got swallowed inside the cracks during land forming. There is nothing strange at all. Because, magic is supposed to do that all, isn’t it?

“Right.....isn’t it? I’ve never saw someone creating a farmland with Earth magic.....”

“Not only Earth. There is also Wind and Water.”

The soil is warm, might be an effect of fire element. If that isn’t the case, the vegetation won’t simply disappear. With the Earth magic alone, the plant won’t be cut off that easily, I can’t imagine the Wind elements are not playing a role.

But, thinking in the same line, meteor is not only fire attribute, there must be Earth Element mixed together. Firestorm would be something like fire and wind and hot water will be combination of water and fire.

If you asked me how the magic turned out like that, then I don’t have a single clue.

The magic that I used for agriculture this time, although it’s hard to control because of 3 or 4 mixed attributes which is unusual, it’s still nothing compared to Meteor. Even if I scale up and do it in single time, it should still be alright.

I mean, this magic might not be able to use before cutting of all the trees first. The reason I can do this is because there are no large trees around. Although the trees and rocks were all cleared up first, there is still slight increase in magic consumption.

“I feel bad. To think that you’re helping us this much.”

“What are you saying now, Olba. This is for Nania. From tomorrow on, this farm will extend even further!”

I'm the one who will do the main work, though.

“Ellie.....”

Nania-san get teary eyed. I remember our previous talk about the debt, but this is surely not the time to be talking about money. Next time then.

Ah, the quest.

You have cleared it! 5 points, got!

We need to discuss on how to spend the points. Ellie finally collected 40 points. She can master the Space Magic now. I also haven't managed the one from the locusts yet either.

“Let's return to the village. My home is small, but all of you are welcome.”

Chapter 9: Skill Acquisition Meeting

After returning to the village, we were invited to Olba-sans house.

It's a one-story stone house, large enough for 2 people to live. When all 5 of us entered, it did get a bit cramped inside, but since I've been travelling for 2 weeks straight, I don't really mind.

During that time Nania-san started cooking for dinner, we were guided to the bedroom. I put out my stuff from my Item Box and arranged them. The small room was quickly filled out.

"I'm sorry. This is the only room that is available."

"This is still haven compared to when we were camping outdoor."

We're not in the state where I can say that we are homeless since I've been building houses with Earth Magic, but, even though its small, an ordinary house is far better than an instant build house. Plus, I can get on the bed with my wives and sleep together.

After Olba-san got out of the room, everyone gathered around the small bed and we started our meeting. While hugging Tilika, Sati clings to my side and both Ann and Ellie are at the opposite side.

"First, let's celebrate the completion of the quest."

"""" Yay""""

"We finally accumulated enough skill points!"

That's right. Ellie wished to rise one more level, but in the end, she didn't manage to. No, it's obvious after looking at her Guild Card subjugation records. The prey simply goes by Ellie, which in turns makes her unable to defeat any.

Even during the annihilation of the Orcs settlement, the spot where her magic hits conveniently doesn't have any Orcs around,

therefore counted as zero. During the hunting trip, most preys were mainly defeated by Sati and myself due to our Detection skills. Of course, Ellie, has put some effort on herself too, but there isn't much result.

We also did some hunting during our journey this time. I was practicing inside the forest and hunt at the same time, without Ellie. Then came the locusts, but unfortunately, they were all exterminated by me.

Ellie said that it's not everyone else's fault, but truthfully, she did grow sullen, yet she was still going strong, with the quest in mind.

"First of is Ellie."

"Please."

Elizabeth's Skills Level 24 SP:0

Magic Sense level 1	High Speed Casting level 2	Magical Power Enhancement level 4
MP Recovery level 4	MP Usage Reduction level 2	Recovery Magic level 1
Space Magic Level 5	Fire Magic level 1	Water Magic level 1
Wind Magic level 5	Earth Magic level 2	Throwing Technique level 1
Cooking level 1	Short sword level 2	

【Spatial magic】 ① Create item box ② Short range teleportation ③ Long distance transfer ④ Create Transfer Square for Party ⑤ Space Understanding & Space Manipulation

I operated the menu screen to raise her Space Magic to level 5. Like this, all of Ellie's Skill points are spent.

By the way, she is acquiring for herself a dagger combat skill. She came to love a knife while practicing throwing techniques. She practiced it hard with Sati, and it was improving somewhat. Even during cooking, handling a kitchen knife never felt that familiar more than ever.

"Alright, it's done. Just saying, make sure that you won't use it all

of sudden, okay?”

“I know.”

I open back Ellie’s menu screen and confirm the space magic level 5. Space Manipulation and Space Understanding. Rather than a level 5 magic, it feels more like a basic level 1 or level 2 magic.

Ellie wants a super destructive magic! Should I worry that she might say something like that?

“This.....how do you actually use it?”

“Isn’t it a Space Magic version of detection skill? Why don’t you give it a try.”

“Okay.”

Ellie’s face frowned while concentrating.

“I can see Olba and Nania at the other room.”

Suddenly, I had a bad feeling. Although my Presence Detection is not that detailed, I got a reaction of two people closely attached. They seem to be doing an exercise. Yeah, it’s ‘that’.

“.....”

“I think it is impolite to see too much.”

“Eh, ah, you’re right.”

Ellie’s face got slightly red, and her face looks dreamy. What she just used was a level 5 magic. I’m sure that her ‘vision’ was more precise.

Looking at Ellie acting all restless made me go into a weird mood. I tighten my hug on Tilika, but of course it wasn’t anywhere near enough. Perhaps we should stay in the inn at the fortress, or return back home with Transfer.

I already acquired my own harem, but they rejected the idea of

having fun together. They will absolutely get angry if I get down and dirty with Tilika right here.

Sati and Tilika are okay with each other, but the same can't be said for Ann and Ellie. Indeed, I can understand the embarrassment from others seeing the intimate acts, but this was kind of making me sad.

But, right now, I'm happy enough with either Ann or Ellie servicing me individually.

All of the necessary information about me were shared by Sati. Sati's knowledge were treated like a bible to those older women, and thanks to that each of them are so fulfilling.

I forgave Sati for telling the other three about our lovemaking. Especially Ann and Ellie, I believe that they're incredibly interested with whatever Sati has to tell.

I also tried asking her a bit, but after listening from Sati's Skill point of view was enough to make me feel extreme embarrassment, like, who the hell is that handsome man!? That's what I honestly thought.

According to Ann, she was thankful that I've never attacked Sati like a beast immediately after I bought her. Even in this other world where the act of buying a slave is normal, an act of getting a woman just to do anything one desire is not exactly tolerable. Just that sometimes there are some bastards who tried to take advantage.

"Next is me, me!"

Tilika gets on her knees and urges me so.

For the time being, I let Ellie test her Space Magic at the aside, and opened Tilika's menu screen. Tilika had collected 40 skill points. She can upgrade to Summoning Magic level 5 now if she wants.

Tilika Skill Points: 0 Level 21

Cooking level 1	Evil Eyes of Truth or Lies	Magical Power Enhancement level 5
MP Recovery level 5	Magical Sense level 1	Water Magic level 4
Summoning Magic level 5		

“I already increased your Summoning Magic.”

“.....”

“What’s wrong?”

“As I had expected, a pact is required this time as well.”

Well, I can understand that much, the problem is what kind of monster we’re going to face.....

“I have no idea. It seems like I’m required to find it out myself. What should I do?”

“H-hmm?”

From the looks of it, neither I nor everyone else had any good idea. Tilika now turned a bit confused.

Go out and search like it said? But where are we supposed to find it? I can’t imagine a summoned beast any greater than the Dragon. Shall I make an inquiry in my diary? Though, I doubt that I’ll get any answer from Him.

“Let’s think about that later.”

Ann gives a suggestion.

“Okay. Next one is Sati.”

“Yes.”

Sati Level 25 SP: 0

Cooking level 2	Household level 2	Sewing level 2
Covert level 3	Stealthy Steps level 2	Sound Detection level

		4
Smell Detection level 2	Sturdy	Hawk Eyes
Mind Eyes	Physical Reinforcement level 5	Agility level 5
Evasion level 5	Shield level 3	Swordsmanship level 5
Archery level 5	Life Magic	Magic Sense level 3

This time, I raised her evasion to level 5. Her physical strength enhancements are enough, and the rest are just contemporary skills, but this this is annoying. Both her Evasion and Detection skills required 10 skill points for level 5.

During the previous level up session, I've consulted Sati on the matter of Magic Power Detection skill. My line of thinking is that what if there are mages included within the enemy forces. Indeed, during our fight at the Gorbass Fortress, the enemies did brought along someone with magical capabilities. Right after I sensed magic's that were shot towards us, I can neither evade or defend against it. If she is capable of sensing the invocation beforehand with Magic Power Detection, then it's possible to obstruct or escape from it.

Angela Level 21 SP: 3

Cooking Level 3	Housework Level 2	Cudgel Martial Art level 4
Magical Power Enhancement level 5	MP Recovery level 5	MP Usage Reduction level 4
Magical Sensing Level 1	Recovery Magic Level 5	Water Magic Level 4
Physical Reinforcement level 3	Shield level 3	

Other's always labelled her as plain and not contributing much, but actually she is knowledgeable in major magic, weapons, recovery, as well multi-tasking many other things such as housekeeping and negotiating. Out of all the people in our party, she is the one who is the most reasonable. I want her to stay that way. If the people from the Templar Knight find out about this, they

might faint.

The last one is me. I'm currently level 29. I gained 4 levels from exterminating the locusts alone, and hunting on the way help me collecting some Skill points too.

Physical Strengthening at level 4, Evasion, Magic Power Sensing, Earth Magic level 5.

Masaru Skill Points: 3 Level 29

Skill Reset	Rasgarde World Standard Language	Clock
Cooking level 2	Covert level 4	Stealthy Steps level 4
Presence Detection level 4	Enhanced Physical Fitness Recovery	Willpower
Physical Reinforcement level 5	Shield level 3	Evasion level 5
Martial Art level 1	Archery level 3	Knife Throwing level 2
Swordsmanship level 5	Magical Sense level 5	High Speed Casting level 5
Magical Power Enhancement level 5	MP Recovery level 5	MP Usage Reduction level 5
Common Magic	Life Magic	Recovery Magic level 5
Fire Magic level 5	Water Magic level 3	Wind Magic level 3
Earth Magic level 5	Mind Eyes	

I've considered whether I should take on Spirit or Light Magic before, but after thinking hard again, that spell would make me awfully stand out. Even though it's just a magical splash of some sort, what should I do if I messed-up somewhat, trying to cast a spell unknown to myself? I want to lead a simple life. The Skill points required were also great, but that problem can be overcome with my skill reset.

Next one left is Magic Power Sensing. The skill doesn't look that important at first glance, but it's actually quite important.

Even during our previous encounter with the Harpies, since the

enemies are capable of sensing magic, they managed to disturb our chant mid-way.

With this, the curtain for our skills upgrade comes to a close. Coming up next is a discussion for our new agenda.

“Let’s build a house.”

For the time being, I need a base. I want a room where I can relax in various way.

There is no inn in this village. There is nothing wrong with freeloading in others house, there will be more people coming to work for the farmland, by building a base, there will be gates where it’s easy to slip back and forth.

Common sense dictates that building a base outside the perimeter of the village is dangerous and should be left alone. However, for us, it’s not a problem since we have enough fighting prowess and detection ability. Even if there was an intruder, I believe that they can be eliminated easily, plus, by making the entrance underground, our safety is pretty much guaranteed.

“Is that so. There is nothing for us to lose, so why not?”

Ah, I can hold a party too.

“But, is it fine to build on your own volition?”

“Not like the land is owned by anyone else in the first place.”

According to Ellie who is a noble, strictly speaking, the unused land belongs to the lord and hence is the property of the country. However, there is no problem for cultivation activity once we have paid our taxes.

Severe punishment befalls on those who evaded taxes. With the current state where all residents are living inside the wall, they have become easier to manage by the officials. In addition, the Truth Official makes it harder for anyone to build secret farmlands.

But there are also rules imposed for the ruling party. They are

required to collect the pre-determined amount of taxes properly. They are not eligible to raise the taxes amount on their own.

This kind of job falls on Tilika.

Nonetheless, it's not an easy task to impose misdeeds. With the privilege that comes alongside their aristocracy, any Truth Official can't simply reach out and ask them questions. First, a set of evidences must be properly prepared, and if the accusers has a lower status, they are required to bet their own life.

“The Truth Official from the olden days have gone way too far.”

Because of it's unfair condition, the story about it has never reach the masses. True to their intention, they honestly don't want this to become widespread.

It happened long ago, when the Kingdom was still within the Empire territory. Massive purge was ongoing for when the Truth Official held the highest reign within the administration.

What was the result? The internal affairs of the Empire are tattered. The aristocrats who were put on verdict united and rebelled. The Truth Office got destroyed. The Empire barely suppressed the rebellion, and the damage it brought along were enormous. Many lives were lost.

Since then, any operation from Truth Official as a magistrate were conducted very carefully and some flex were administrated. The act of protecting and managing a vast territory such as the Empire are not all flowers and sunshine. That's how you efficiently operated a country.

As long as all the territories were protected, any act of evil or two can be easily overlook.

“The technique to create Devil Eye were lost during the upheaval of that time, now left as a mystery.”

Things have gotten serious since then. Many Truth Official were slaughtered, and the technique to create Devil Eye were lost altogether.

Luckily, the Emperor living during the political purge was still alive, and with his support, the Truth Organization was barely kept alive. Their method of operation might be wrong, but the Truth Organization were still useful.

However, the method to create the Devil Eye were left incomplete.

In addition to its low rate of success, there are also side effect for the successful one. Headaches, blindness, growth halt and many other physical disabilities. It was said that those who can't adapt will likely died.

Although mortality rate has decreased after years of research, faulty one's like Tilika still occur occasionally.

"Many lives were lost due to our careless behaviour. It is a sin that should be carried by a person who became a Truth Official. A lesson."

The Devil Eye were originally gifted by God. Then, it was lost due to the mistake of the Truth Official. That's why they have to bear the pain and suffering.

In Tilika case, in addition to her growth halt, she will also experience mild headaches after getting too agitated.

"I'm still feeling light headed."

"That time during our interrogation with the bandit, don't tell me you're having headaches too?"

"A little."

When we were interrogating the thief, I thought she was tired, and want to go sleep early.....

"No need to endure it once it become painful."

After saying that, I hugged Tilika on her knees tightly.

"Un. Alright."

“So, do you want to store the Skill points for removing your Devil Eye?”

The Magic Eye of Truth skill. At first, I thought that Tilika’s body will return to normal once I’ve used it. However, she refused it. The reason is, she has doubts where the Truth Organization will get the info somehow. Another thing, she is satisfied enough to spend all her Skill points on Summoning Magic.

“I can’t simply accept such benefits.”

“But that is just an event in the past.....”

“I’ve come to accept whatever happened to the Truth Organization.”

“Each strength comes with their own responsibility.”

Ellie said. Agreed, Tilika nodded.

Noblesse Oblige, a sense of duty for doing a noble thing.....

“We are the people who is keeping the world in harmony. We’re proud of our work. There are no regrets.”

“The shrine and the Truth Organization are both an important task decreed by God. Since Masaru is an apostle, I need to do my best.”

In response, Ann throws a legit argument.

God is real in this world, and He intervenes in various ways. That’s the reason why everyone decided to embrace faith.

But, I’m a human being from another world. I’m not obliged to follow this God. The only reason I’m following the orders are because of the rewards. Everything depends on my mood.

“Let’s do our best in the future.....”

I don’t really know what I want to convey.

“Now that I think about it, there was a large-scale political purge at Siory town, and it’s still happening. Is it fine?”

“We received the permission from the headquarters. Those aristocrats were not covered, so occasional discipline is necessary.”

A warning, huh. Although they brought it to themselves, the criminals targeted in Siory Town were a bit sad.....

Chapter 10: Let's Build a House!

Next day. Olba-san wanted to drop off at the village chief's house first. While walking, both of us chatted.

Although at first, it was said that it's fine to cultivate the land however he wanted, the scale which he is cultivating was bigger than originally planned, so he wanted to make a progress report.

However, the village chief had already left. He already went to see the planned cultivation location since early morning.

When we have reached the farm site, there were already about 20 to 30 people gathering around. Surrounding the farm site which I've created yesterday has people encircling it, from small children, to elders, gathering and chatting around.

“Did you increase the amount of aides?”

I asked Olba-san.

“Its Impossible. Since the fields are already usable, just that yesterday I was asking around whether they have any crops to plant.”

“They are coming to see anyways.”

Ellie reaffirms the fact.

Maybe they have come to see the site that was created by magic.

“That's like half of my total relatives.....”

Olba-san muttered after taking a look at the group.

Ah, I get it. This is a rural village. Even though he claimed that his parents were already dead, he still has many relatives left in this village.

“Olba! This is quite a well-done job!”

“Chief, sorry for troubling you, coming all the way here just to see.”

A stout old man with grey hair and whiskers came stomping towards us.

“This is one of my leisure times. Oh, isn’t He the esteemed Mage! I’m the chief of Largano village. Call me Bahalt.”

“Greetings.”

We shook hands.

“Just like what you had heard, the farmland area is likely to grow bigger than expected with Masaru-kun and Ellie’s help.”

Olba-san explained the situation to the Chief.

We had briefly consulted with Olba-san regarding our debts. Since Ellie had borrowed from Nania-san a lot during the olden days, I’ve promise to do the job.

Just that we were uncertain with the full amount. It was for the period of 4 years, and money was rough for both Nania-san and Ellie at that time. The left-over money from the remittance were used for whatever was necessary. Although Olba-san can roughly estimate the amount of money their party earned and after distribution, he still doesn’t know the tiny details such as how these two spends their money.

As a result, during this winter sojourn, it was decided to help the debt repayment by supporting them readying the farmland.

“Ohh, don’t mind us. Just do it quickly!”

A lot of curious villagers comes near, watching me talking with the Chief.

It feels like the act of myself showing off the magic yesterday was a mistake. Though, for those people who are helping out till yesterday, I think it is fine for them to go back already? I don’t mean anything bad, I just hope that this magic doesn’t get spread

too much when there's only a few people here.

“Everyone! Let's do it!”

After the Chief yelled out the signal, about 20 people began cutting down the trees simultaneously.

“Chief, actually we don't need that much helping hand...”

“It's okay, don't mind it. We're just short of some firewood. See you, then.”

“Guilty.”

Tilika who was standing behind me pass out the judgement. Well, that seems to be the case.

I saw off the village chief who was inspecting inside the forest.

“What's his deal?”

“The area nearby here, I heard a talk saying that there is not enough farmland.”

After listening to his story, the shortage of agriculture land around here was causing some life and death matter to the village people.

The easier place to cleared up nearby the village were done so long times ago. Although the population is increasing, only few manages to inherit any land. Even though the land can be cleared, it doesn't mean that the land is suitable for agriculture. There are also defence against the demons and waterway maintenance that needs to be handled. In Olba-sans case, from the beginning of 2 to 3 years, there might be not be any harvest. He may not have any problems with money, but it's still a big project which is quite a handful to do alone or with family.

For those who doesn't have any lands to inherit, they must live like a half-slave, or went to the town.

However, from the town where I come from, a work that can be

done from a rural upbringing are quite limited. There's still a fair amount of jobs that they can do for their own livelihood, but money wise, a soldier or an adventurer are pretty much the common choice. The type of job which risks lives.

Because of that, many people prefer to continue plowing the field.

I'm oblivious to the needs of these people, but for Olba-san and Nania-san who planned to continue their livelihood in this village, there's no way they can abandon the hope of this villagers.

In truth, both of them have actually never mentioned something like that to me.

"The price for hiring a mage to do jobs are very steep."

I see. He doesn't want to let his wife work as a merchant guard in the meantime.

It's align with Ann's missionary works, helping other people in need occasionally is something which I can do.

"It's not like I always give out a free service every-time, you know? The clinic properly takes money and management of the orphanage is pretty hard."

"That's right. I remember getting totally rip off the first time I came to learn Recovery magic."

"Wasn't the price cheap enough?"

I was stripped off 3500 Gold in just 2 days. Even for a mage, it takes about a month to collect that amount of money.

By the way, that was the minimum payment that I should make before getting taught anything. In order to teach a someone who doesn't have a single clue about magic, it is not something that can be done in a short term. Like this, anyone would look for a better learning institution.

"Eh? I was told that even the longest will only take about 2

weeks.”

“If I actually told you that it takes a month, won’t you feel bad if you end up not able to learn it when the time nearly up? If I told you that it would only take 2 weeks, then won’t that make you give up much faster?”

That is fricking awful!

However, for those who don’t have affinity with magic, they will likely be unable to learn it because of lacking in magic power.

“Then, Ellie who is actually capable of using it is actually pretty incredible?”

“Right? Now that you understood my greatness, give me more respect.....no, just forget it....”

P-please don’t worry too much! In my case, I just have my cheat ability! Ellie is a wonderful mage!

After Olba-san came for reinforcement, she hesitates for a bit, but her mood quickly got better. As usual, she is too easy.

“That’s right! I’m the ultimate mage who has mastered the Space Magic!”

Um. Amazing, amazing.

Currently, there’s about 20 people who are currently working in the woods, and while we were talking, a considerable number of trees were cut down. They just need to cut it down and roll it at the side. Since there’s no need for them to actually collect the logs, so their working pace is very fast. We, the mages were in charge of the collection.

While paying attention to the falling trees, we started collecting the logs. Walking around, I explore the surrounding with Earth Sonar and check whether there are any obstacles. Although small things are okay, big rocks and equivalent would only get in the way when I start activating my magic.

Even if I weave through the working villagers, they won't notice me since I've killed my presence.

While I'm collecting the fallen trees, the person will jolt on the sudden disappearance of the tree. Sorry.

Everyone stopped their work once the village chief returned and announced the breaks.

Since we also lend a help, the forest got cleared up in just 2 hours.

But, there's still many weeds and shrubs left since we only focused on the big trees. Its hard for me to divide the area for cultivation.

Of course, that was not a big problem.

I confirm again that everyone has evacuated, and scanned the area with Earth Sonar to make sure. There's no more obstacles left.

As for me, I keep on killing my presence since my focus can be easily perturbed by others. None of the villagers were aware that I was chanting.

The area is twice as big compared to yesterday.

I invoked the magic while remembering yesterday feeling——

Alright, I've mastered it!

Suddenly, the forest site is nowhere to be seen, and a land of soft soil appeared. The villagers who were chatting till while ago slowly noticed the phenomenon with shocked looks, and their expressions quickly bright up.

“When I first learned about it, I still have half doubt. But this is.....”

Right after, all the villagers came forth to inspect the soil of the newly formed farmland.

“What do you planned to do next?”

“I have to draw the waterway, and since the farmland is going to grow bigger, it might be necessary to create new one. I have to consult with the village chief first.”

Originally, he planned to pull one from the existing waterway, but now it's no longer sufficient since the farm size has grown. Thus, left an option where we need to expand the waterway, by drawing an additional one from the river.

“Alright then, I'm going to build the wall.”

As for the wall, I can build it without worrying about the imperfections, since I can always patch them up later. For now, as long as there's wall it's fine.

I adjusted the walls height and boundary after consulting with Olba-san.

Normally, for the agriculture land, the walls or fence height was about one meter only. It was made so because most people take cost into consideration. They want the wall to come out sturdy.

Eventually I tried to build a wall about 3 meters. It is as high as the wall around the village.

The villagers come and see when both me and Ellie were building the wall. Is it that unusual to see a wall being created with Earth magic?

Although there's no effect to my secret since all of them were flocking towards Ellie, I tried to withdraw myself further and watching them from afar.

“I wonder if I should try learning Earth Magic.”

Ann said that while looking at the finished wall.

“What about space magic?”

“It's hard, isn't it?”

“Very difficult.”

Tilika answered Ann’s question. For some reason, learning Space Magic is quite tough.

“Isn’t it always hard to learn new type of magic? Space magic, in particular, has higher degree of difficulty.”

So that was the reason as to why the total Skill points to unlock level 1 is very high.

Silently, I continued building the wall. In the end, the wall joined up with Ellie’s side, completely surrounding the farm site. Both of the pathways for going in and out are cleared at once. I hope someone will help installing the gate later on.

“This one feels like a good one!”

“Well then, let’s build a house while keeping things as it is.”

A house, huh. Where should we build our house? If we build it too near to the farmland, then wouldn’t it get too noisy? Why don’t we go inside the forest for now?

We went for confirmation with the village chief first, and we got permission to build our house wherever we want to.

“What should we do about the monsters at the surrounding area?”

I asked Olba-san.

“There are many soldiers and adventurers at the fort. That is because this area is near to the Demon Realm.”

Since there is a fighting force in vicinity, the correspondence time is fast. Though, occasionally they couldn’t come if there was a fierce attack from the Demon Realm side.

.....Dang it, I’m too scared to venture deep inside the forest. Let’s just explore nearby.

There is enough manpower to mow down the trees, so we decided to leave them and find a spot for our house.

I've decided to build a house nearby, so I want to wrapped it up today.

I hold up Sati, float up with Levitation, and check the surrounding area topography.

“H-how about that place, Masaru-sama?”

Sati points to a destination which is a small hill besides the forest. The distance is probably less than a kilometre from here. It's very near to this farmland.

“Hmm. I think that would make a good spot.”

Ellie, Ann and Tilika also came up.

Ellie seems to like the high point on the hill top. If we build a tall house on that hill then it's possible to get a good view even from home.

“Let's go take a look at the place for a time being.”

Ann voiced out her opinion.

We switched to Fly, and went towards the hill. It's unexpectedly small when looking at it closely. I don't know whether it's really a hill or just a small mound on the land.

We get off on the hill, and explore the surroundings. There are many small animals scattering around, but we've not picked up any signs of Demons.

But if I were to make this place my home, I better secure the safety first. Let's hunt all of the Demons in this vicinity during my free time.

When I explored the underground with Earth Sonar, I found out the water vein. Like this, water supply is not a problem even without using magic.

“Why don’t we cut off the obstructing trees for now?”

“Okay.”

Together with Sati, both of us commence our operation. That part of the hill quickly bald up.

Now, what kind of house should I made? I can simply build the common one, but now that we’re at high altitude, why don’t we take advantage of this nice view. A tower building, a three-story bungalow, a castle.....a castle!

Let’s build a Japanese style castle. Yeah, that is a really great idea. Let’s make it a castle with a tower. If I build a castle reinforced with a stone wall, the defenses will be boosted too.

“I think I’m going to build a castle (Japanese style).”

“A castle. What a great idea!”

Ellie is probably imagining a western style castle with a tower.

“Castle? Won’t you have trouble managing it if it is too big?”

Our family’s homemaker, Ann is worried about the labor and management effort that need to be poured off during cleaning.

“I will try to make the size as manageable as I can. But, this is an area which the Demons are coming out, so isn’t it better to build a sturdier one?”

“You’re certainly right.”

First of all, I need to focus on the foundation of the castle. Normally, when you’re building a castle, we need to stack the stones to create a stone wall. The Earth Magic eliminates the need of that.

Earth Magic is capable of building anything.

There was a time when I believed that notion. But, the reality is harsh.

The stone wall turned into something with a slippery feeling. Well, that can't be helped. Without the stone wall, we're likely to get invaded easily.

There's no white plaster applied on the castle wall, so naturally it's brown soil color. I wished I have a marble or whitish stone lying around, not only the soil. No choice.

Supposedly, the castle roof should be made of roof tile, but since it's troublesome to create a roof tile one by one, in the end it became an oblique roof. The material used is the same as the wall, so the color is brown as well.

The shape ends up looking like a row of building with intricate detailing like a Japanese castle, yet still feeling slightly off. Preferably, a roof tile must be attached to the castle, producing each of them are truly troublesome.

I don't have much time to spare. If I don't finish everything by today, I will stay at Olba-sans house again.

Just like that, I continue building the tower castle. I also put [Shachihoko](#) on top of the roof. That one is also brown in colour and looks very amateurish. Somehow.....I can see everything.....is it?

Its like those from the three-storey residential area, with the addition of a castle roof. I'm planning to add a basement later.

In the end, what was the result?

Ellie wished to have a tall building, ticked. My wish to have a castle, ticked. Since Ann is sceptical for effort put in cleaning, she hopes that the size will be affordable and manageable, ticked. Rather than a castle, the completed house looks like a rectangular long vertical tower. And on the roof, there is a tea room style penthouse rather than a castle tower.

What the hell is this? How did this happen.....

Not only that, everything clicked together with everyone, except for the Shachihoko.....

Chapter 11: Outbreak of War

After finishing the rooftop (temporary) for the castle, I get down and check the building construction.

The completed architecture is completely different from what I originally planned. It's not something which I can proudly show off to others.

Japanese castles are one those building types which are designated as a World Heritage Site. It's not something that can be built on the spot with an ambiguous idea as a guide.

I secretly seal the idea of building it deep in my heart, and one day I'll finish constructing it. I will never give up!

"This is not bad. The view from the top is also nice."

"Where is the entrance, Masaru-sama?"

"On the rooftop."

I'm the one who built this building from scratch, and I intentionally did not create an entrance at the bottom. I am afraid of the risk of getting invaded if I don't surround us with walls. There is still no door leading to the inside. Creating a proper door is more time-consuming than creating a bunch of walls.

By making the entrance on the rooftop the chance of invasion is low, unless the invaders can fly through the sky.

But what about Sati? The height of this tower is about 10 meters. She is capable of using Levitation, but is this too high for her?

"Sati, can you try climbing up to the rooftop?"

"Yes!"

When she tried, as expected, it was impossible for her to reach it with a single jump. But, by continuously supporting herself on the

slight crease of the building she was able to climb to the top.

I thought she would find it more difficult, yet Sati masterfully showed her climbing prowess in front of me.

“That’s amazing, Sati!” I shouted up to her.

“Now I’m going to come back down!”

“No, no, please wait!”

After a moment, she prepared to jump. Afraid, I hurriedly stopped her in her tracks. I think she can do well, but honestly, I’m just scared for her.

I go up to the roof with Levitation and approach Sati.

“I think it shouldn’t be too hard for me to descend from here, maybe?”

Even the person herself said so.

“Here, when you get off, why don’t you try holding on me?”

Like that, Sati promised me she wouldn’t attempt to jump down.

Let’s make a proper entrance tomorrow.

For the time being, I finished up the interior parts of the bedroom and bathroom. We included bedding as one of the items for travelling so there won’t be a problem sleeping comfortably tonight.

My plan is to use this house during the winter sojourn. After that, I don’t really have any plan for it. In the end, I decided that this place should at least have a minimum of basic furniture and cooking utensils.

The fortress is full of traders. There are various types of shop there and I decided to go on a tour of them tomorrow.

“Eh? You already built your own house? So, you are going to stay over there from now on?”

We went back to report it to Olba-san.

“That’s right. Masaru built something awesome!” Ellie proudly told Nania-san of my feat creating the castle tower.

“Don’t you have any problem with your magic power?”

“Let’s see ... I think there won’t be problem as long as I always take breaks in-between.”

The building was large enough that my magic power is diminished. However, there is still plenty of power to spare, and if I don’t have enough, I can always ask Ann to replenish some of it.

The deforestation was proceeding smoothly while I was out building the house. The villagers were just preparing for lunch during another break.

In the meantime, I offered the Orc meat which I had stored inside my Item Box.

The truth is, I’m not joining in the work this evening. They are cutting down the trees and turning them into firewood. Since we have relieved them of the hassle of moving the logs, there is less of a workload for them. But since they are providing us with food for lunch, it’s better for me to show my gratitude since they certainly helped me settle in. Besides, although I don’t know for how long, I’ve built a house here in the neighbourhood, so it’s natural to keep a friendly relationship with them.

“My hometown is not actually a poor village, it’s just that this year’s harvest has not been great.”

The rain shortage is a serious issue here as well. However, the river near here still has sufficient water flowing through it, so even in this drought there have been some crops to harvest.

The work resumed after lunch.

I want to contribute to cutting down the trees, but Olba-san said that I should take a rest.

I've heard a lot that the recovery of magic power takes time, but I wonder how is it in a real-time situation.

"What about that?"

"I think it's better for you to recover while you still have time."

When I asked Ellie, she mentioned that in while in a state of relaxation, the recovery rate for magic power is increased. A theory like that exists. But it's just a theory at best. There is nothing to back it up yet.

Normal people are unable to quantify their magic power. The only way they can confirm it is through experience.

Well, since I'm not well-versed in this subject myself, I think it's the best for me not to pursue it that much.

"There is still time."

"....."

Tilika nodded in agreement.

Sati is with Ann, while Ellie is helping out with the deforestation. Tilika and I are alone.

In truth, Tilika is not actually that busy. We're both working together.

Right now, Hawk is flying around doing reconnaissance work. Once a demon is detected, it is to be exterminated in an instant.

Alone, I tried to think about making a well, although I don't have much idea of how to go about it.

If I don't build one soon after I dig down to the water, the water will be unusable as it will become muddy very quickly.

Maybe I should make a building for it too. It's fun to have meals outdoors, but currently we are in mid-winter. Too cold.

A decent kitchen and dining room are good enough. There is no need for an over-complicated structure. I'd like it to be a big one so that it can accommodate more people.

This place has a water well alongside the dining room. I made it indoors while I was building the wall earlier this morning. I made it on my own, I hope they won't demolish it if it happens to get in the way.

My magic power continues to recover naturally. In order to reduce the wastage in my usage, I'm making the wall thinner. If the amount of soil used is small, only a small amount of magical power will be consumed. Since I'm going to live inside the tower that I built today, I made the wall thick to ensure its sturdiness.

"It's still cold." Tilika murmured. I entered the dining hall which I just built. The temperature is the same here as outside.

"Okay, okay. Let's build a fire."

I made a hearth on the wall with Earth Magic. Should I build three?

I take out firewood from my Item Box and light up the hearth. I boil some water and brew the Magi Tea. Time to warm up.

"How is the situation?"

"They are not very near."

It's hard for Hawk to discover enemies inside the forest since it is doing reconnaissance from the sky. But that is also good news because it means there are no large flocks or gigantic enemy.

Cleaning the surrounding demons was done without a hassle. No, most of the work was done by Taiga alone.

Although by letting Taiga do most of the work, recovery of the prey is difficult and we won't receive any experience.

While thinking about that and hugging Tilika in front of the fire, the door opened and Olba-san, Ann, Ellie, and Sati came in.

“This, when did ...”

Olba-san was shocked. This is the first time Olba-san saw a house built by me.

Aside from the hearth, there are also chair and desk ready to be used. I made enough furniture for 40 people to use at once because I used the orphanage as a reference.

“The weather is cold outside so I tried making it as resting place as well.”

“It has a good atmosphere.”

Ellie is warming herself in front of the hearth.

“I want to request for you to create some more farmland soon. Do you have enough magic power?”

“Yes. I’ve been resting, at this point I am recovered.”

“Eh? Didn’t you just build all of this just now?”

“Well, yeah. But building this didn’t consume all that much magic power though.”

“This is quite a grand building, so I thought that it required a lot of magic power.”

“I made the walls a little bit thinner to conserve magic power, it might not be much more durable than that desk over there.”

“Ah, is that so.....”

The table is simply a rectangular shaped box, while the chair is a fixed long bench type. I just solidified the soil without strengthening it. This way, I’m capable of saving my magic power while cutting some time and labor.

“Then, let’s get going.”

“See you later. We’re going to take a break here.”

Ellie said without taking a look back.

Everyone gathered in front of the hearth and warmed themselves. None of them seemed to have the slightest intention of coming with me.

Yup. They had been working until just now. From just now, I've noticed while recovering my magic power. It is very cold outside.

“Got it. I'm going.”

Only Sati is following me. No matter what, she is always by my side ...

Our work is over for today, and finally we are going back to our house (tower).

With this, I finally grasp the extent of my ability, while the chief and Olba-san both said that they will continue the development plan.

Somehow, my magic power is much more than he expected, so the chief is getting motivated.

As expected, Olba-san is feeling bad about it, but Ellie assured him that everything is fine, and Ann supported her.

However, Olba-san insisted that we're only to help with the parts which he specifies, and afterwards we are required to take a break. All the logging is to be done by his fellow villagers, the only part done by magic will be making the farmland and building the walls, since it is easier that way.

Well, it is more organized that way. There is a much more important fact though.

I'm on vacation, vacation! This is the honeymoon which I've been waiting for!

We are not going to be disturbed in this tower either.

Tomorrow, let's go to the fortress and shop for some furniture.

The interior decoration inside the tower is partly done, the walls and the basement too.

There are still many additional things to be completed, but everything can be finished by using magic. Hurrah, magic!

First of all, I'm going to build a bath. I'll make it twice the size of my rented house at Siory town so that it can easily accommodate five people. Unfortunately, today I only get to enter with Tilika and Sati, but that is not too bad in its own way.

We almost never took a bath on our way here, so it's been so long that it feels like forever.

Wow, isn't that fun!

Recently I was a little overwhelmed. I was hunting all the way throughout our journey, and unleashing the Meteor spell.

Both Tilika and Sati are washing my body. In turn, I helped them wash theirs.

"This bath feels so nice!"

"Yes, Masaru-sama."

I hold Sati and slowly get into the bathtub. Sati is holding Tilika. It's relaxing even though all three of us are stretching our legs out.

This is it. This. This is the thing that I wanted.

After taking our bath, we eat our meals. Although the day isn't night yet, I took both Sati and Tilika to the bedroom.

Today is Sati and Tilika's day. This was decided by all four of them, but I don't know the details since for me I'm doing it continuously. Rather than a harem, it feels like I'm being shared by four people. Although, I'm pretty sure that this is what a harem is.

After playing plenty of times with Tilika and Sati, and after we were done, visitors came. Although I said visitors, it was Ellie and Ann. It is quite rare for them to come visit me this late at night.

“I wonder if this is a good time. That ... I have something to talk about with Masaru.”

Pushing the door slightly ajar, Ellie said this while squirming.

Ah, I get it. Did you take a peek using your Space Magic? Was it impossible to endure anymore?

“I’m taking a bath to wash out this sweat. Do you want to join me?”

However, I need to maintain my gentlemanly manners. After I get consent from the satisfied Sati and Tilika, I head to the bath together with Ellie.

Second round, start! I still have plenty of stamina and time left!

After eating breakfast, we went shopping at the fortress. Today’s cultivation should start around noon. It is more efficient to do it after all the trees are cut down.

The fortress is within flying distance from our place. We are not going to go there many times, so the idea of placing the gate point ran through our head.

We arrived at the fort, and there we shopped for furniture and food ingredients. The shop was quite good and they had plenty of items, and their prices were reasonable.

This fortress, although it is named as one, it actually more resembles a commercial city.

Although this place is near to the Demon Realm, directly adjacent to this fortress is the Elves Forest. The people here have made a treaty by which the elves will handle all the demons. The coalition is for mutual defence, but for now the human side benefits unilaterally. It can’t be helped since the Elven Forest is directly connected to the Demon continent as well.

Of course, the fact that the Elves are taking care of defense doesn’t mean that the human side should take it lightly either, since we are also neighbouring the Demon continent.

But, more importantly is our trade with the Elves. The Elves make an extremely powerful medicine, as well as various other popular products.

“Ladies, how is it? Everything is personally crafted by the Elves!”

There are ten or so accessories in a case which were shown by the clerk at a certain shop. Even the works by Elven amateurs look beautiful.

The lifespan of an elf is several times that of a human. For humans, usually the craftsmen will undergo years of training and studying. Even so, it's hard to imagine such a beautiful thing will ever be created by them.

The beauty comes with steep price. Everyone's desire was on display, but it's clearly out of everyone's reach.

The Elves themselves were a focus for tourism. Most of the elves from the Elven Forest rarely leave their area. The only exception is this fortress. Once in a while, the elves will come to shop or have a meal.

I'm looking forward to seeing the elves at the fortress, I can stay for days.

However, it seems that the elves are not here today.

Sati wants to go sightseeing in the Elven Forest, so that's something that I can do at least.

We went to the forest side of the Elven Forest, but the gate was closed for the general public and was off-limits. We were told that the gate will only be opened occasionally when the elves are coming out or the goods merchants are passing through.

I was disappointed when I got called up by the security guards at the gate. There are many others who also want to see the forest. Most of them usually climb through the gate to take a tour.

The guard told me many other things as well.

As a matter of fact, we are prohibited from talking with the elves even if they do come by. We are only allowed to take a look at them from far away. No staring. Only a quick peek.

Both the males and the females have a remarkable beauty. They are the everlasting youth race. They become a target for a few small group who are going after the elves.

Most of the cases end up the humans getting beat up by the elves, who naturally have higher fighting power like a mage, but sometimes it develops into battle between the powerful. That is one of the reasons why many adventurers are attracted to come see the Elven Forest like us.

If trouble brews over and in turn the elves don't come to the fortress anymore, it would be a terrible loss for the elven lovers. That is why I was forcefully to abide the unwritten laws. Guard san, are you one of those 'lovers' ...

Besides, it seems that they have a certain complex about their breasts, so if possible, fully mature human girls are not allowed in. They are good climbers. There are rumours saying that the inside of those elves taste very sweet, though it remains unconfirmed.

Sati is delighted to hear the stories about the elves.

I bet the guards have a lot of time to kill. All the gates open rarely, plus there are no monsters. I guess handling tourists like us is well within their job description.

After the guards let us go, we went up the fortress walls. Right now, there is only us on the top.

There are only forests. Although there are roads extending from the gate, there are only forests extending to the end.

The Elven village is still further away from here, though it's not like the place is visible from over here.

I was the first one to notice.

My Magic Sense level 5 caught some sort of reaction. An

enormous magic reaction is coming towards the fortress from the Elven Forest.

Then, Sati noticed. A group of people are flying towards us. There are a lot of them.

They are the Elves. I'm sure they are coming here for entertainment. Very lucky.

Alright boys, my body is ready.

Shortly after, the elves arrive at the front gate. There are about 50 of them. As expected from the elven race, they are always in groups, plus their Fly ability is quite remarkable.

In the sense of their level of magic power, you can feel that each elf is emanating lots of magic power. Just when I'm admiring the ever-powerful elves, their clear voice echoes.

"The gate! Open the gate! Demons are invading from the Demon continent! Prepare for battle!"

The menus open without permission.

The quest tab is blinking.

【Quest: Save the Elves!】

Due to the invasion of the Demons, the Elven Country are likely to fall.

Quickly go to the Elven Country and save them!

Rewards: 10 skill points for the whole party

Do you accept the quest? **YES/ NO**

There goes my fun vacation.....

Chapter 12: Elf's Country Defensive Battle

① Encounter

“The gate! Open the gate! Demons are invading from the Demon continent! Prepare for a battle!”

The situation inside the fortress quickly dissolved into chaos after that announcement from the elves.

While the messenger ran, the gate was slowly opened.

ClangClang**Clang**. The ringing sound from a bell could be heard three times. Ringing a bell three times consecutively indicates an emergency.

“What if the Elf country falls?” Ellie uttered while looking at the elves who were still waiting for the gate to open.

“Obviously, next they will target this fort. And it is likely to fall as well.”

As a tribe, elves specialize in magic. All elves are highly skilled in magic and their reserve of magic power is several times greater when compared to that of a man. Their country itself can be considered as a stronghold.

When they are done with the Elf country, I'm sure they will target this fortress next.

“Since the monsters are attacking, we need to be on high alert. Although, there is no way that the elves are going to lose.”

I don't know the exact population inside the Elven country, but it is a powerful country given that there are a thousand mages inside. That is a fighting force at least 10 times larger than the available force during our time at the Gorbass Fortress. This is confirmed by Ellie.

But isn't it a little bad now?

The quest clearly mentioned an impending collapse.....

There is no point looking at the elves forever. I turned to everyone to tell them about the new quest, when Sati leaked a small “ah.”

An elf was descending onto the wall in front of me. I’m surprised at her sudden appearance and unable to react. She flies?

She looks the same age as Ellie. Her hair is braided with beautiful blonde twin tails. Her skin is as white as porcelain. Long ears. She is wearing a coat which is wrapped over her clothes and adorned with ornaments, making it look very high class. Next are the wings. Not real ones. They were magically produced.

While I was staring at her, the wings instantly disappeared.

“Onushi.....identify yourself!”

Was I exposed!? After thinking for a moment, I realized there is no way she would ask this question if she was suspicious.

If that is the case, why did this Miss Elf appear in front me and throw me that kind of question?

A huge amount of magic power is gathered around this Miss Elf. At first, I thought the magic power emanated from the entire elf group, yet in truth this power is hers alone.

Furthermore, I’ve never seen anyone wearing magic power around their body before.

Magic power is usually emitted when we are chanting magic internally. Is this a special characteristic of an elf? Or is it because I’ve raised my magic sense so I’m able to see it more clearly?

“I’m just your everyday adventurer.....hey, what is the status of the Elf country right now?”

The elf in front of me is strangely suspicious, but I need to check on the condition of her country first.

“Our country is falling. I’m sorry, but we need to stop the Demons here.”

This is hopeless.

In the end, my vacation is ruined for sure. No, maybe if I repel their invasion now and swiftly ...

“No way, fall down!? How can the elves lose...”? Ellie exclaimed, surprised.

“That is what I thought initially. But as of right now, it is only a matter of time.”

“What exactly happened?” Ann asked calmly.

“Do you know about anti-magic metal?”

“The Efilt Bart ore. Last I heard, it was not usable.....”

It seems that Ellie knows about it. I can slightly guess what it was about due to its anti-magic name.

“People of our nation recognize the metal.”

Miss Elf continues explaining it in detail. When the topic is about a matter of this world I’m pretty much useless, so the one responsible is Ellie.

Anti-Magic Metal.

Just like the name, it’s a metal which impedes magic. A few hundred years ago, when it was first discovered, it was a revolutionary method against magic, but in the end, it turned out to be unusable.

First of all, as a metal, it is too soft. It can’t be used to make swords. Neither can it be used for shields or armour.

Even if you made armour with this considerably strong anti-magic metal, it is still not enough to ward off even half the effect of elementary class magic. It’s not possible for either armour or shield.

In addition, the amount mined is so small, that it is hardly available.

Currently, it is used in decorations since it's easy to process and colourful.

“Those guys, they attached enough anti-magic armour to cover the entire body of the King of Earth Turtle, which is about 100 meters in length.”

It's unsure whether it is because of the large mass of anti-magic material, or because of some special magic processing. All attacks from the elves were scattered around the anti-magic material coated on the Earth Turtle.

Physical damage doesn't hurt the Earth Turtle that much. Worse, the elves suck with anything other than magic.

“It is bad enough that we are forced to repetitively attack just to stop it.”

The problem lies with their magic power. Once their magic power is consumed they require a much longer recovery time, longer than it would take a person, to gain it back.

“For now, we are hoping to buy some time by creating a pitfall.”

Not only it is huge, there are a thousand troops accompanying it as well. However, regardless of how, the elves still sent a messenger to us. Our fortress will easily succumb without help from the elves.

For those elves that have depleted their magic power, don't even mention the Earth Turtle, they don't have sufficient strength to fight against the Orcs.

Now that the elves have lost magic power, the Demon army starts charging.

Once the demons have overturned the Elf Country, it will only take them a day or two to reach this fortress.

There is still plenty of time before the Earth Turtle reaches here.

The pitfalls bought us some time, so first I'll swing through the Elf country. She is carrying unnecessary luggage with her too, that is why her flying speed is a bit slow.

"There is a way to defeat the Earth Turtle King. We need to concentrate our magic at one point, and break through the anti-magic metal. Our previous attacks should have left some marks on it."

However, the Earth Turtle King was originally a defensive creature. It has a shell which is naturally resistant to magic.

This is the 100-meter Earth Turtle King we are talking about. Defeating an ordinary one is hard enough.

During the escape made by this miss girl, the country was already surrounded by the demons. The country will most likely fall before the elves are fully recovered.

"At the very least, some elves managed to escape."

But the problem remains.

Why is this elf coming over here and explaining details of this emergency situation to random adventurers like us?

Supposedly, Ellie is the one listening and answering everything, but from the start this elf has been staring hopefully at me and I have no idea why. There is no doubt that this is my first time meeting this elf.....

"Princess!"

Two knights come running from the stairs. Both of them are also an elf.

"Ah, Patos and Titus. How goes the negotiation?"

"The Adventurer Guild will issue an urgent request. The army of this country will spread the news around and mobilize as many troops as they can."

“We have secured an inn for today.”

The heavily armed knights, Patos and Titus, answered. Are they twins or sisters? They look way too similar.

“Good work. Did you request help for our country as well?”

“We were told that they would like to consolidate the defence in this fortress first.”

“By golly! What about our treaty!?”

“It is too late for the elves. Even if they gather troops to help, the damage will already will be done.”

According to their treaty, the elf side is entitled to a request for relief from the fortress. But this Miss Elf, who was called a princess, is not receiving the aid.

“Princess, who are these people right here?”



One of the knights turns to face over here.

“They are adventurers.”

“If you are an adventurer, it would be best for you to go to the guild now. They will issue an emergency quest shortly.”

“I’m going to hire them as my own personal guards. I explained the situation to them just for that reason.”

You still have much explanation to give.....

“You are going to hire these adventurers as your escorts?”

“It is time to head back.”

Just like that, she ushered everyone to return to the battlefield in her country. Rather, the time I received the quest is quite convenient, maybe I’ll check it out for myself first.

“That!?”

“There is no problem with going back. But now the situation has turned grave, so you should make your escape soon.”

“Our magic power is already depleted, right? Besides, this is too dangerous, Princess.”

I, too, agree that this is dangerous. But now that this has become a quest, I wonder if it is okay to escape.

At a moment like this, I would like to think that I never saw the quest. But if this gets exposed, I will get killed. Mainly by Ann.

Besides, it feels wrong to leave the elves to their despair.

As for my wives who were uninformed about the quest, they all seem lost about what to do. They can only watch the discussion between the princess and her knights.

“At this rate.....at this rate all I can do is watch our country fall! My father, my mother, my brothers, they are all still fighting!”

“Well said! We will help you!”

Ellie is taking advantage of the atmosphere.

“Ooh, let’s do it!”

Ah, geez. Please don’t decide that by yourself.....

I can understand Ellie's feeling given that her father was slaughtered during a monster raid. They might get in the way so I don't exactly have any problem with fighting them.....

However, there aren't any objections from anyone else in my group [*trans*: family ?]. I wonder if this is because everyone understands. Based on the story alone, this situation might be worse than our time at the Gorbas Fortress.

"But why are you bringing some of these adventurers along....."

"Can't you feel it Titus, the amount of magic power this guy has."

The Elf Princess points directly at me.

I see, my magic power. The truth is my magic power is much greater than that of a normal person. Despite this, the fact that I'm an apostle is not yet exposed.

"Certainly, this guy's magic power is far greater than that of other human beings."

"My spirit is making noise in response to the magic power of this man. This is strange."

The elf named Titus is scrutinizing me.

"For the time being, why don't we go to the guild first? Aren't they going to issue the emergency quest soon?"

Ann gives a calm judgement.

But this is not good. The Elf Country is going to fall, that was already clearly stated in the quest.

If we wait to join the emergency request and save the country alongside other adventurers, God knows how long that will take.

"Everyone, please wait a moment. Ah, forgive me. I hope the Princess can wait, because I have something I would like to discuss with these others first."

“O-okay.”

We went to a location deserted of people and brought all of our faces close together.

“Just now, I got a quest to save the Elf country.”

“What did you say!” Ellie leaked out in a surprised voice.

“Your voice is too loud. What’s written is——”

【Quest: Save the Elves!】

Due to the invasion of the Demons, the Elf country is likely to fall.

Quickly go to the Elf country and save them!

Reward: 10 skill points for the whole party

“What to do?”

“This is good. 10 points!” Ellie has been motivated from the beginning.

I believe that she is going to join the battle anyway, even without the quest notification.

“This is a quest which is issued by God Himself you know.”

This quest came directly from God. There is no way Ann is going to refuse.

“Let’s help the Elf Princess!”

Tilika nodded repeatedly while listening. I wonder if Sati likes the Elf Princess. It’s rare to hear her give her own opinion.

“In the event that we might fail, then we will use the Gate to escape. There is no need to push ourselves too hard.....”

This is the anti-magic metal, which the elves themselves can’t handle, that we are talking about. While I think that this is not

absolutely impossible, I am not sure whether we have any chance of defeating it either.

Truth is, if the emergency quest is issued, I'll be forced to go for the defensive battle anyway. If I follow the princess now, I don't think there is much difference.

"I'm a bit afraid. But, I'll do it. Let's prepare the gate in the meantime."

I opened the quest window again and select YES.

"I accepted the quest."

Let's prepare for the worst first. I will finish this quest as soon as possible and then enjoy my remaining vacation.

"Listen up! Safety first. Make sure that none of you get injured."

"Of course. We will gallantly save the elves, and become a living legend!"

"No, there is no need to go that far."

Please seriously stop from trying to become a legend. I want to keep it under the rug this time. There is no way that I am going to risk my identity as an apostle.

"I've decided to use this chance to get out of the B-rank for good."

"It's certain that you will rank up to A-rank once we successfully finish this mission. No problem."

"No, that's true but....."

"In the end, isn't it harder to remain inconspicuous while defeating the Earth Turtle King and saving the elves?"

"Ugh....."

This directly pierces at my weak spot.

“Then, then, we need to make a grand entrance by defeating it. Like that, our ascension to A-rank would be certain!”

“No, we are guaranteed to get it. Defeating a humongous creature which can’t be stopped by the elves themselves? That definitely qualifies as a pass for a rank-up. Plus, how are the rewards? I don’t feel like repeating the same thing that happened with the locust invasion.”

“Well, talking about rewards, isn’t the quest giving one.....”

“That’s right, this is an errand from God. If you request additional rewards, then you are getting punished for sure.”

Ann comes into agreement.

“Yeah, the rewards are fine. Thanks to Masaru, we’re able to pay off the debts.”

I can understand Ellie’s desire to be a hero, but doing gaudy things like this is very troublesome, and I don’t want to reduce my winter breaks.

“But they are issuing the emergency request soon right?”

“That’s what they said.”

“If we secretly go with this Princess and slay the turtle behind everyone’s back, won’t they ask where we were? Plus, ditching an emergency quest is a felony!”

Wrong, it’s not considered a felony. Most are just fined or excluded [*trans*: expelled ?]

“I will report properly to the guild. Let’s ask them nicely. Just like that time with the locusts.”

“Then let’s do this. This Princess situation is not a light matter, and we’ll see about the rest later. If you stand out in the end there is no helping it.”

Ann insisted that the quest must be completed at all costs and the

important thing is that the Elf country is saved.

“If you insist, then.....”

Let’s get down as quickly as possible to avoid the gaze of others.

“I’m fine either way. But think, no matter what you do, won’t you be exposing yourself anyway?”

When we go back to meet the princess, we see that they are quarrelling.

“You lot, please tell this Princess too. Even though we’ve undergone a lot just to escape.....”

“If you want a successor, then leave it to my little brother! Speaking about the royal line, my elder brother is more suited to escape!”

“That can’t be helped. Your Princess’s escape was only possible by everyone’s effort and working together. Not to mention, isn’t your magic power now depleted? How do you plan to get back? By running? Princess, you are bad with physical exertion, right?”

“I will be able to recover after resting for half a day!”

“Even if you manage to return back, what can you possibly do!?”

“Would you like to use Magic Recovery potion?”

Ellie gives a suggestion to the princess. I always buy them in case of emergency, but they are now piling up.

“I still have my own magic power left. Only my spirits have depleted their magic. The Magic Recovery potion won’t work on a spirit.”

There is magic power enveloping the princess. So, they are the spirits.

Flying magic is not suitable for a long trip. As the number of people increases, both overall speed and cruising speed are reduced.

Even if a person initiates Fly alone, a headache might occur due to exhaustion of magic power midway, and it has been said that being alone in a forest without magic power is suicide.

According to the Princess, spirit magic doesn't have any weak points. Because they, themselves, are magical creatures, the headache won't occur even when using magic continuously. Their magic power is not comparable with that of a human, and even if theirs is exhausted, the user's personal magic will be preserved.

Isn't that convenient, this spirit magic. Like this, there are actually two systems for magic reserve.

"If one has attained the highest level of Recovery Magic, then it is possible to recover spirit magic power as well. Is there a shrine here?" the Elf Princess inquires of Ann.

"I can use it. Let's restore it."

"Ooh! So you can do it, Priest-dono!"

"Wha, please wait a moment! Princess, once you go back, what do you plan to do? Do you have anything specific in mind?"

"I believe that this guy will be able to do something..... somehow, that's what I thought."

The knight, Titus, demands a plan from her, and afterwards the princess became less confident.

"What! Somehow!?! Of course he couldn't! Even if they are S-class adventurers, chances are they would die given the situation out there!"

S-rank?

Are they talking about us?

"Hey.....we are actually B-rank adventurers....."

Eh? Is that so?"

The princess is looking at us, appalled.

“What S-rank! Please say the right thing!”

“I sense a great amount of magic from this guy.....plus the priestess has a high-level magic too, so...”

Apparently, the princess assumed that I’m an S-rank because of my magic power, and mentioned that to Titus.

“You guys, too! You are just a B-rank, and yet you want to save us? Please don’t say things that you can’t do!”

What she is trying to imply is that a S-rank party is just that strong. Sometimes, the S-rank adventurers have the power to overturn an entire battlefield.

But we’re just mere B-rank. For an elf who is an accomplished mage, the rank might sound a little bit dull.

“There is no problem! We can do it!”

Ellie assured Titus.

“S-see. Even these guys are saying that.”

“Please, I beg you. I don’t want the Princess to sacrifice herself. The King and the Queen are going to share their fate along with many others in our country. If even the Princess is roped along, that.....”

“Everything will be fine. We will escape through the gate once things have gotten too dangerous. That’s right, we should be able to help the Elf King that way too.”

“You can use Gate? Titus, did you hear that? This way, it’s possible to save both Father and Mother! I knew my spirits eyes have not gone mad yet!”

It looks like she mistook us for a S-rank group and started talking without any plan in mind. However, she is correct for choosing us. I wonder if she was guided here by Itogami. By the looks like it, her

actions are clearly influenced by the spirits.

“I-is that the truth.....?”

“Yes.”

“I swear to the truth with my eye.”

Tilika removed her hood and, unusually, said her vow.

“That, she is a Truth Official? Then this is the truth.....”

“Just leave everything to us.”

Titus turned her face to Ellie.

“Can you, can you really save the King?”

“Not only that! We will save the whole Elf country! Masaru will knock down that Earth Turtle King!”

So, it's me!

No choice then, I'll have to do it.

Chapter 13: Elf's Country Defensive Battle

② Elf King

"I know it is too late to say it now, but are you really fine? This is dangerous."

The princess who got her spirit's magic power recovered from Ann Miracle Light asked us that once again.

It really is too late. But, what will happen if I received the quest, yet I bail at last moment or failed? In adventurer case, they usually get fined with money.

Let's ask it in today's diary.....nah, I better don't. 'Alright, since you failed, here comes the punishment game!' The Itokami might probably answered such. No doubt.

"We are prepared to face the danger. Plus, we can still use Ellie's Gate magic."

Ann answered. The elf knight, Titus-san, ask that we will use the gate to transfer the royal family, and if possible together with the princess. Seems like she is thinking in the line where the village can't be saved. Who knows if the situation is that bad? "Don't you want to see the others first before we set out?"

"Aside from our party, the others would simply try to run away."

Ann strongly asserts to the princess. If anything, the normally pacifist Ann becomes like this because of God's quest.

"Such recklessness, as expected of adventurers."

Adventurers work is to fight. Even my wives are thinking about the same thing.

There are many things that need to be considered, although it shouldn't be so dangerous as far as we're prepared. However, I guess I'm the only one who are thinking about the danger seriously.

But, because of that, I'm just a coward if I back down too much. I'm actually a timid person, though, since I'm just an ordinary Japanese, that traits can't be helped.

"Before we depart, I have a favour to ask."

I'll ask her to keep our magic a secret for the time being.

"Using the gate will require several things to take attention for. I want at least a person to stay guarding the point."

According to the princess, the Space Magic was developed by human. There is no elf user that managed to level it up that much, when most of them only capable of using Item Box, let alone transfer. Seems like their compatibility with Space Magic is that bad.

"Hmm. So, that is my opinion."

This way, it is impossible to keep our Gate magic a secret anymore.

Though, we can simply go anywhere we set the transfer point. It's not only convenient, but extremely dangerous ability as well. Therefore, it's natural a person of higher ranking wants to charge a restriction.

"It's decided. Patos, Titus. In an unlikely event where I couldn't return, make sure you guys serve Emilio, and help him."

The princess easily bid her faithful knights a farewell. Her magic power was already restored, so there is no time to be talking idly.

"Princess....."

"Princess, I'll pray for your safety."

Both of them looked like they are going to weep at any moment.

I'm not bringing extra's along with us. When flying in a group, the more the people, the slower we will get. Plus, it would consume much more magic power too. Then, there is a limit on how many

people can be transferred with the gate. If we bring these two knights together, the number of people who can be taken during our escape will decrease accordingly.

“O’ wind!”

Responding to the princess call, her magic power, the spirits activated.

A pair of magic wing manifested behind princess back. Her body gently wrapped in a wind coat, and she starts to float.

So, this is the spirit version of Fly magic. She doesn’t even need to carry herself.

“My name is Masaru.”

By the way, I’ve never introduced myself yet. I went to face her and introduce myself.

“I’ve never mentioned my name to you guys yet, it seems. My name is Lilian Dora Pettycourt. I’ll allow you to call me Lily.”

Just like that, Lily invoked Fly.

During our flight, everyone introduced themselves. The wind draft is noisy, but there is no hindrance when speaking normally as long as there is protection of the wind itself.

“We should start thinking about the strategy.”

Ellie makes a suggestion.

Our normal strategy is to flexibly act after the initial magic release, but since this time we are in a tight spot, we need to set some policies to some extent.

“I agree.”

Rushing towards the country is easier than I thought. Since we are high in altitude, the demons on the land don’t pose any threat at all. Furthermore, flying at the spirits speed makes abandoning

incoming monster a breeze. Though, there was also moments when we have difficulty escaping due to many people flying at once slowing everyone's speed.

"First, Masaru will defeat the Earth Turtle King. Then the remaining magic power will be used to defeat the other small fries."

Yeah, nothing different from usual. First rule, make sure to leave some magic power for escaping.

"Please wait a moment, just what....."

I understand what Lily-sama wants to say, but I don't know the extent of the enemy's ability. Even if I know it, I'm not good enough to form better strategy. Lily-sama might be more knowledgeable about warfare than me, since she is royalty. I tried to ask about the enemy specific fighting forces, but she doesn't seem to know it.

The number of enemies are also unknown. She doesn't know if the Earth Turtle King can be defeated too. For now, like usual, I will carefully gouge their fighting power after I release my first magic.

"A-are you sure it is fine like this?"

Lily asked me worryingly. I'm currently anxious, but for Lily who never witnessed our power, it can't be helped that she is panicking more.

"Once Masaru gets serious, he will get this down."

"It's a bit scary not putting our best in this.....do you think 70% is enough?"

My overall magic power has increased since the time when I invoked the Meteor. Therefore, the destruction level will increase too for sure. I don't think that I'm able to control it that well yet. In addition, I didn't get to practice it at all. This emergency sure comes out of nowhere.

If I used only 70% of my power, then there shouldn't be any problem. Though, whether I can adjust my power that precisely or not, I don't know.

“You should take this seriously!”

“I’m concerned about my magic power control. If my magic goes out of control, thing will get bad you know?”

“Ah, okay.....if you failed, then I’m finished.....”

Lily-sama will be the one in trouble if I failed. There is nothing that I can do since it’s the truth.

“Putting that aside, Spirit Magic sure is amazing. Is it possible for us to learn it?”

Let’s talk about different topic with Lily sama.

“I never heard anything regarding a human successfully mastered one. And even if you learn this, you will not be able to use other magic system, so it’s inconvenient.”

For example, Lily-sama who obeys the spirit of the wind can use wind system magic freely. As compensation, she can’t use magic of other system such as water and fire. It’s surprisingly inconvenient. I better give up learning it.

“Forget about me, what is Masaru’s specialty?”

Ann is a priest. Ellie has her Space Magic. Tilika is a Truth Officer. Sati is a beastkin accustomed with bow and sword, so that is pretty much her role. (Crywolf:changed beasmens to beastkin.)

Although she can sense my tremendous amount of magic power with her Magic Sense, on the outside, I still have an appearance of an adventurer who is carrying sword around. Certainly, I haven’t explained that side of myself yet.

“I’m a magic swordsman. My specialty is Fire and Earth Magic.”

“Such explanation is not good enough, Masaru. Lily-sama, Masaru is extremely good with his Fire Magic. His firepower won’t lose to that of an S rank magician. With that, I’m sure he is able to defeat the Earth Turtle King.”

Ellie's trust on me is heavy. This time, the Fire Magic that I'm planning to use, Flare, even during the practice I try invoking it with least amount of magic power. I wonder if my anxiety is shown at my face?

"Everything will be alright. Masaru will do it."

"That is right! Masaru-sama will definitely beat it!"

"Masaru, do your best."

"Yeah, that's right. I will give my best shot."

I got motivated by my wives' support.

"A-are things going to be alright.....?"

However, that enthusiasm seems to increase Lily-sama worries more.

Right, somehow, please accept my apology.

Right after the vast forest, we arrived at the battlefield.

On the far side of the ground, a high rise white wall, there I could see a white castle. With a huge castle at the center, there are many towers and other buildings surrounding it. Nearby, I could see a greenery which maybe form of plantation and farms.

Being a capital of the elves, it has a vast site, much likely 10 tens bigger than Siory Town.

As I approached it, I can see the Earth Turtle King at the other side of the wall. Even though they mentioned earlier that it sizes spans 100 meters, it is still not comparable to the entire Elf Country. From my observation alone, I can't ascertain whether there are smaller size monster army with it. There are quite some demons who were flying at low altitude. They haven't noticed us yet.

At first, I've thought of releasing the boulders down akin meteor shower, then I realize that it might be a waste of effort. There is no

way they are going to be effective against that huge Earth Turtle King. In case Flare failed, I might need to release down my Meteor (magic).

Just when we reach the top of the castle, Lily-sama suddenly descent vertically without any hesitation. Ann gave out a surprised scream. I squeaked a little.

But this is the only way to cut across this battlefield. We can't ask her to slow down the speed. Inside this battlefield, there are several demons who are flying around.

As expected, the demons are not able to invade through the sky above this country. In the end, we landed on what looks like the rooftop of the castle.

We run after Lily-ama who dashed into the castle. This place is unmanned.

"Did everyone gone to the castle wall already.....we are going there too!"

Again, we are being carried with Lily-sama's Fly magic again. When we were approaching the wall, a sounds of battle can be heard. That explosion, did that come from magic?

After I activated my Magic Sense, I detected lots of magic power dispersing from the tower of the wall. We were brought inside the room, and after descending at the veranda of the tower, we can see crowds of elf.

"Lily-sama!" "Liliane-sama!?" "The Princess has returned!?"

Lily-sama moves past the crowd while answering the call of the elves.

Since we are together with her, naturally we came along as well. It hurts when all the elves are giving us that piercing gazes. "Why the hell are the humans here?" That's what I felt from their gazes.

"Liliane!"

“Father!”

Looking at her father, he is a young-looking elf, sitting at the back of the room surrounded with the other elves. Just like what the others had told us, the elves are young looking just like in the rumors.

“Why did you come back?”

“I’m going to fight too!”

“What about Emilio?”

“I’m going to send him to the fortress safely. They should be fortifying their defence right now. That is the end of my reports. How is the situation with the Earth Turtle King?”

Simply by watching the battlefield from the sky is not enough for me to grasp the current situation.

The Elf King get up and roam towards the window.

“Behold.”

Looking outside the window, I can see a massive turtle keep still with its upper body facing on the ground.

“We managed to buy ourselves some time. That guy, it seems that it has given up on climbing and have a rest midway.”

“Father.”

“Right. Go to the next room. There you can hear the detailed report.”

“Understood. You guys are coming too.”

We move to the next room. The king and the queen. Together with Lily-sama is us.

“How about Elder brother?”

“He is in charge of defence at the South Gate. So?”

“I’ve bring along some adventurers with me. They can be useful.”

Lily-sama introduced us to these people.

“Together, let’s do our best to save the Elf Country.”

On behalf of us, Ellie bows her head to the Elf King. Ellie is a great partner.

“Thanks for your offer, adventurers. I can feel strong magic power coming from you. I’m sure that will come in handy. You must have come here with a determination to die.”

“Father, actually, there is more to that. These guys can use Gate magic. In the unlikely event, we can use that to escape.”

“I don’t need that.”

“Father!”

“My dear Liliane. When the time of danger has come, go with these adventurers and run.”

“Father.....”

“I will never run, no matter what happened. I’ve lived for 200 years in this country. I will fight till the end, and when the fated time comes, I will fall together with this country.”

“What about the other Elves!?”

“Ars has grown worthy to succeed me as a King. The elves escape is commanded by General Elion.”

“It’s too early to give up, Father!”

“I don’t know. Right now, the situation has turned for the worse. We are trying to accumulate enough magic power to defeat the Earth Turtle King, but the continuous attack from the Demons are preventing us.”

“Th-this person will help us beat the Earth Turtle King.....”

Lily looked at me uncertainly.

“Um. For that, I will give my best shot.”

In accordance to Lily-sama awkward introduction, I answered with my own level of self-confidence. Not like my declaration has any assuasive power in it. “Hahaha. If you can do it, by all means! Fufu, uwa~hhahhahhawwa,-ge hogge hoggo hoggo ho!”

Perhaps that hits his nerve, he immediately burst into laughter.....

“Father!”

“D-dear, get a hold of yourself.”

“Uu, forgive me, cough, cough!”

The king continues coughing. I don’t know whether he is tired from wearing a calm façade all this time, or that he simply tired because of lacking magic power. His complexion looks bad.

“I’m going to take a rest for a while. Wake me up if there is any update.”

“Yes, dear.”

He entered into slumber as soon as he hit the bed.

“Mother. Even if it’s Mother alone.....”

“This country is where we have peacefully lived till now. Many spirits have taken root at this land. There is no longer any option for us to abandon this country. However, Lily. When push comes to shove, you and the other youngster can restart our country at other place.”

“Mother.....”

That time, the slumbering king’s magic power oozed out, and formed a humanoid form. Standing near the wall, it’s taking a look at both the princess and myself.

I guess this is the spirit under the possession of the King. It has a female stature and blue in colour. Like water.

Our country.....the King, please save.....O bearer of the blessing.

The voice of the spirits echoed inside my head. This message is definitely directed to me.....

“I understand.”

I nodded towards the spirit. Soon, the spirit returns back to the El King.

“What was that, just now.....?”

Blank, Lily sama looks at me and asked.

“I can hear the voice of the spirit.”

Looks like Lily sama doesn't heard it. I'm saved. It will become troublesome if she heard about the Divine Protection.

“What did the spirit say?”

“Save the King and this country.”

“I never heard the voice of the spirits. And it's rare for the spirit to independently manifested themselves.”

The queen looked surprise and proclaimed so.

“Hey, what happened?”

Ellie whispered to me.

“The spirit takes a human form and spoke to me.”

“Did you saw the spirit?”

Then, Ann asked.

“Yeah.”

“I want to see it too!”

Next, Tilika.

“It’s vague, but I definitely saw it too.”

Sati said so.

I wonder if that is because of her high Magic Sense. I’m currently level 5 and she is level 3. If the level 3 can only see it vaguely, then it’s impossible for normal people.

“Dear adventurer. What are you called?”

“I’m Masaru.”

“Masaru. I’m asking this of you on my behalf. Please, please save us.”

“I understood. Please leave everything to me. I’m going to give my very best.”

I declared that to everyone. Watching how determined both the king and the queen are, my worries quickly got blown away.

Currently, this situation feels like they can be solved by others, yet I.....I’m going to save all of them.

Now, I understand. Perhaps, the reason why Itokami put a quest to save the elves is because of this.

My anxiety remains in fear of my magic power control, but I will definitely defeat the Earth Turtle King with my full power.

At that time, I saw the menu appeared. A new quest is flashing.

【Quest: Defeat the Earth Turtle King! 】

The Earth Turtle King can be defeated by using around 70% magic power.

Using full magic power is not recommended because there is danger that it will become haywire.

Rewards: ???

Do you accept the quest? **YES/ NO**

Ah, I see. So that is it.

Tl note: The spirit version of Fly magic can carry multiple people on one time. But the more the people, the slower the speed.

Chapter 14: Elf's Country Defensive Battle

③ Subduing the Earth Turtle King

Looking at the newly issued quest, my maxed-out enthusiasm reaches the peak.

I select the **YES** option.

Rather, the rewards this time are '???' instead.....I'm too eager to take on the quest that I hurry up without looking first.

"Everything will be alright. This is Masaru we are talking about."

Looking at my expression turns grim, perhaps they think that I got cold feet again. Then, Ann tries to reassure me.

However, they are mistaken. I was determined to do my best, and this felt as if cold water was poured on my head.....

"Yeah, leave everything to me. I will definitely defeat that Earth Turtle King."

Naturally, I declared that to everyone softly. Up till now I'm worried whether my magic will be ineffective, but even Ito Kami said that it can be defeated.

Thinking about it the other way around, let say if I shoot the Flare full force, the probability that it might fail will be high..... perhaps that's the reason for this message. It might have been fatal.

It would be nice if the side effect just includes my consumed magic power only, just like when I was practicing my Recovery Magic, but it's well known how terrible it would be in case of offense magic. Worst case scenario is when the supposed long-range magic misfired.

All in all, it will be more powerful than the previous Meteor. The surrounding area will totally get blasted, including me. A large hole will be opened at the wall, and the Elf Country will fall without

even waiting for the Earth Turtle King. Once misfired, the magic can't be stopped, until they are finished. I shivered just trying to imagine it.

"R-right! Just do it!"

No need to be gloomy. I will definitely win this time. Just like playing mahjong, strike swiftly. When everything is over, let's return back to our newly built house. That's the plan.

"Lili-sama, can you guide me to an empty place where I can observe the Earth Turtle King."

"No problem. Then Mother, I'm going."

After the Queen sends us off, several other elves were waiting outside.

"Father is currently resting. He will be in slumber until we detect any movement from that side."

"Understood, Lily sama."

"This way. Follow me."

Following Lily-sama leads, I found the other elf is coming as well.

"Um, Lily-sama."

I'll be troubled if the other are following us, so I tried to gesture the signal through our eyes contact.

"That's right. Everyone, I'm currently being escorted by these guys. Please return back to Father's Side."

"However, Lily-sama!"

An elf with a beautiful face keep glancing at me. Perhaps, they are being cautious on me, whose origins are unknown to them.

"They are competent adventurers. There are no problems."

".....understood. However, even though their movement has

ceased for now, there is no telling when the Earth Turtle King will start moving again. Please be careful.”

“I know. Let’s go.”

We leave the observation tower, walk down the stairs and went up the wall. Several elves were standing on the sentry for a defense, and as I looked outside, I could see the Earth Turtle King is standing still.

The Harpies are flying around the Earth Turtle King. Behind, a large army of Demons can be seen.

The trails that was left by the Earth Turtle King are devoid of any tree, and they were swarmed by countless monsters. Also, when I take a closer look inside the woods, I can see some silhouettes flickering. By using my detection skills, I’ve confirmed that the forest is jam packed with demons. I’m sure they will swiftly follow through the Earth Turtle King once it managed to breach through.

“It is huge.”

“Big.”

“You’re entirely correct.”

While walking through the wall platform, Ann, Ellie and Tilika gave out their impressions. Certainly, that creature looks stupidly huge even from here.

The Earth Turtle King is wearing a faint bluish silvery armour covering its whole body. So that is the anti-magic metal, the Efilt Bart Ore? From afar, I can only see its upper body is covered, but it’s actually covered without gap from its head to its leg.



“.....Masaru, Masaru.”

“Hmm? What’s wrong, Tilika?”

“That turtle, I want it.”

While walking over the wall together with Sati, Tilika comes close to us.

“By turtle, you mean that Earth Turtle King?”

Tilika nodded acknowledging it. No, even if you said that you want it.....

“Make it a summoned beast.”

“Can that be possibly done?”

“It’s possible. After Masaru defeats it, I’ll subdue it by using my Summoning Magic.”

I see. So, what she wants to do is making that turtle as her Familiar. That’s a good idea!

“Just leave that to me. I’ll completely dominated him in the battlefield.”

“Tilika-chan, amazing!”

Tilika looks happy when Sati praised her plan.

“Let’s do it here.”

Continuing our walk, we finally arrived at the roof of the tower. There were many elves that were alerted with us, however they dispersed after being ordered by Lily-sama.

It is one level higher than the wall platform, and here there is nothing that obscured our visibility. Even the Earth Turtle King looks way clearer here.

“Ah.”

Sati cried a voice.

The Earth Turtle King is stirring restlessly, trying to move. It seems that the time that was bought for us is coming to the end. It’s struggling just to move its forefoot, though its effort are letting it to

get out a bit from the hole.

“Perhaps I should hurry up.”

“There is still some time left.”

As Lily-sama said, the turtle lower side is still inside the hole. It's tough to pull up the whole mass of the armour which practically covered its whole body out. That's where we get to buy some time.

“Even so. Can you really do it?”

“Just leave everything to me. My Flare can shoot through even that anti magic armour.”

“Flare.....?”

“Yes, the Flare.”

“.....hard to say, since we also have Flare users..... they weren't effective.”

“Ah, is that so.”

It's no brainer that the elves who have lived hundreds of years have mastered the highest form of magic.

“Well, Lily-sama. Just because it's a bad idea, it doesn't hurt to try.”

Ann tries to cover up for me, but Lily-sama still looked skeptical.

“I will leave it at that. However, wouldn't it be far more ideal to cooperate with us?”

“Then, please let me have one shot first. If I fail, then we will proceed to that.”

The mission this time will leave a flashy ending that will likely make me more suspicious. Let's end everything quickly.

“Understood. We will do it that way.....”

Since Lily-sama is convinced, I'm going to start soon. When I thought so, I felt a strong magical reaction.

It's coming from the tower where the Elf King was.

"Lily-sama, that is..."

Five fireballs were formed outside the tower.

"That is the Flare! And five of them, nonetheless!"

"Masaru-sama, the Earth Turtle King."

After notified by Sati, I take a look at the turtle and it seems that it's trying to withdraw its head and foots inside the shell. When it completely shells itself, all that left is the anti-magic metal armour outside.

"Like this Masaru won't even get a turn anymore. This is the end for the Earth Turtle King!"

If that's the case then how about this quest? Will it be considered as a mishandling? It's a pity that we will not get the rewards, but it's nice that we can save time and effort. Plus, it's better if the elves are the one beating this battle, instead of leaving it to the outsider.

The Flares are gradually formed. High level magic usually takes time to cast. In my case, I have High Speed Chanting skill, so I managed to half the time, though for ordinary mage who doesn't have it, they will encounter difficulty controlling after certain period of time.

The enemies don't look like they are going to move anytime soon. Is it because they've placed great trust on their defence, or they simply don't have a method to interrupt the casting.

Looking at the magic formation carefully, I can see there are some other magic casted alongside the Flare. Many small fireballs are formed besides the five Flares——

Then, five Flares and countless fireballs are launched at once!

Bang! A flash of blinding light comes along the eruption sound when the magic hits. The explosion sound reverberates till here.

“Did we get it!?”

Lily-sama, you are raising the failure flag.....

By the time our sight is recovered, the Earth Turtle King is confirmed to be alive. With this it is confirmed that combined power of the strongest magic Flare x5 is not enough. But, part of the armour at the back shows a burnt state. The attack surely put a dent.

“No, no way.....”

Continue looking, it can be seen that many monsters are clustered at the back of the Earth Turtle King where it took the hit just now.

“By the looks of it, they must be repairing.”

Sati said so.

That’s a given. They will try to repair it as much as possible.

“I’m going.”

Let’s finish it before they are finish repairing. If I attack the damaged part, then there is higher chance for success.

Besides me, Tilika is quietly looking down. I don’t know the procedure for Summoning Magic, however I’m certain that we can’t do it without permission. We must consult about it to Lily-sama first.

Flare, at seventy percent. I tried to remember the feeling during Meteor execution. I need to make it weaker than that time.

My goal is to burn that part for good.

【Flare】 Start chanting ——

“It’s useless.....even the concentration attack from the best five

of Elf Kingdom Fire mage alongside the other doesn't work. Just how much can a person do.....”

Lily-sama murmured powerlessly. I wanted to reply, but the chant is already underway. I have to put all my concentration on this.

Flare is the final form of Fireball magic. Following the chant, a huge, high temperature fireball is form diagonally above at my front.

Despite being assured of my success, this is still only my second time using a high-ranking magic. I need to carefully concentrate my magic power.

The fireball that consumed my enormous magic power is getting hotter than the one used by the elves, and gradually rises in temperature.

The heat waves hits our bodies. The fireball appears as a second sun during this midwinter.

The Earth Turtle King stirred, and quickly withdrawn it neck inside it shell.

But it is useless. In front of the might of my 70% Flare, the anti-magic metal and it shell are not enough as a defence.

.....or that's how it should be.

Clenching my teeth, I finally manage to reach the required magic power level at last.

I was afraid that the enemy will launch their strike first while I'm still chanting, but the Earth Turtle King doesn't move just like before. Even the demons who are repairing it armour aware of me, and start evacuating.

The magic chant finally approached completion. As expected, it is hard to control till the end, though I fare better now since I've experienced it once during the casting of Meteor. The cast should be finished anytime soon.....

——and the cast completed within expected time.

“Flare.”

The fireball is fired. The heat permeating the surrounding disappears, and the harsh coldness of winter returns.

The Flare fly at high speed and hit the Earth Turtle King.

A bright flash shines the surrounding, however this time I properly protect my ear and eyes with my hand. A loud explosion sound and shockwaves arrived at the wall few moments earlier.

As I saw it, the Earth Turtle King large upper body has disappeared entirely, and what seems like fluids were spouting. And the large body falls into the pit.

“You did it!”

“Wa-wa.....he really did it.....”

I open the quest tab from the menu and checked. Yeah, everything is alright. The quest is cleared.

My level only raises by 2? It's lesser than I initially thought, perhaps the Earth Turtle King is not a strong monster in the first place.

I slowly regulate my breathing. I felt a bit sluggish since my magic power has depleted so much.

“Aah!”

“W-what happened, Tilika?”

Tilika looks at me with watery eyes.

“My magic was obstructed, and it failed.....”

Was her summoning magic blocked by the anti-magic metal? That's the most likely case.

“Masaru.....please, somehow.”

“Let’s see. Can we still make it in time if we go directly at the anti-magic armour now?”

Tilika shakes her head.

“Sorry, I guess its impossible then.”

“U, uuhh.....”

“W-what’s wrong?”

Lily-sama who is observing the Earth Turtle King, noticed the commotion that we made at the back and asked.

“Um. Everything is fine. Something small just happen.”

Sati is telling something to Anne and Ellie. I believe she is explaining the circumstances to them.

“If that is it then I guess everything is okay.”

Now.....I hope I can return to home now.

“Look.”

I look at the direction Ann pointed to, the Earth Turtle King.

Well, I guess that is to be expected.

If I ever managed to defeat the Earth Turtle King, I was hoping a little that they will give up and withdrawn.

In the presence of tens of thousands of monsters and demons, they all started advancing towards here.

The other quest, 【Save the Elf Country】 is yet to be accomplished.

Right at this moment, the Elf Country is besieged by numerous monsters, and they start their offense.

There is no time to relax after defeating the Earth Turtle King.

The real battle is just starting right now.....

Chapter 15: Elf's Country Defensive Battle

④ Fierce Battle

“From now on we are taking charge! Masaru, please head inside and get some rest.”

“Make sure to save some magic power for the Gate, got it?”

In the meantime, I took out a large shield and a quiver of arrows from my item box. I've secured for myself a lot of arrows due to my previous preparation.

“You have done well, oh Masaru. From here on it is the elves turn. Please find yourself a safe spot while waiting.”

“We will fight until the end, Lily-sama.” Ann asserted to Lily.

“But.....”

I've depleted my magic power and Ellie is in charge of the Gate. The only ones left for combat are the priestess and a truth official. We were rushing here and she is not familiar with our abilities yet. No wonder she is feeling reluctant.

Unbeknownst to her, activities such as annihilating half-pint punk monsters are our specialty.

“They are right, and even I have some magic power left.”

The “Save the Elf Country” quest is still ongoing. The elves are not saved yet. We are still in a dangerous situation even though I defeated the Earth Turtle King.

“The enemy force is directly ahead of us. There is no more time to argue.” After Ann said that, ten elves come toward us.

“Lily-sama! The enemy is coming. It's dangerous over here!”

A female elf, who was dressed as a commander, rushes over to

Lily-sama. The other soldiers placed themselves at the wall, and prepared to intercept with their bows.

The one who came barehanded (*ed: weaponless?*) and carried a cane must be from the wizard corp.

“No matter where I’m staying, the danger level is the same. I’ll fight too.”

“But.....please, at least, why don’t you go to the tower where the king is residing?”

“I have my reliable escorts. You should focus more on our defence.”

“Your escorts, huh? Including the one with magic that defeated the Earth Turtle King. So, he is one of these guys?”

After saying that she looks at Ellie and the rest of us.

I obediently stand at Lily-sama’s side so as to not appear conspicuous, as Lily-sama is a Wind Mage. The most probable other mage candidate is Ellie.

“That is a secret.”

“So, a secret.....”

Afterwards, elf-san moves her gaze to me.

For a race as versed in magic as the elves, they only need to feel the magic power from us to pinpoint the mage responsible.

Normally, they can only sense a slight amount of magical power leaking from a mage when that mage is not invoking any magic. Since I have far more magic power than what is normal I, in turn, leak much more magic power too.

Well, it doesn’t matter if she suspects me. My primary aim is not to be strictly confidential, but to remain unsuspecting. She might suspect Ellie or I, but now that Lily-sama said it’s a secret, I believe she will not pursue this matter any further.

And thinking about it, there is no use hiding it.

The only person using Fire Magic here is me, and so the person who is capable of shooting a high-ranking Flare can be easily guessed.

Taking the situation into consideration, I don't think I can survive if I am half-assed in using my magic power.

"I understand. However, I will still evacuate you from here like was originally planned."

Whatever rank this elf-san is holding, I can easily imagine how she is going to be held responsible if any member of the Royal family gets injured.

No matter how good Lily-sama is in combat, there is no doubt the effectiveness of our combat unit will suffer during the fighting while attempting to keep safe someone as important as her.

It is indeed troublesome to be asked to evacuate when we are the escort.

"The enemy will arrive soon." I said, and pointed to the enemy troops.

We can see the monsters slowly marching towards our location. The leading edge of that army has reached the spot where the Earth Turtle King was defeated, and now they are within range of our spells. The harpies, demons which cover the sky (*ed: provide air support?*), are remaining still and have hardly moved from their original location.

"Then, as long as you are here, I will follow your instructions Lily-sama."

"But of course."

"Did all of you hear that! Lily-sama will be fighting with us. Let's march!!"

All the elves present roared "'OOOOOOOOH!'" upon hearing

their commander's order.

"Now, as for you guys, Lily-sama's escort....."

"Of course we are going to fight too." Ellie replies.

"Then, I will leave this place to you."

"Actually, I want you to let us attack first. We will shoot them with our long-range magic."

".....understood."

"Arrows are in-coming! Be prepared, everyone!"

Following the warning from the elf, a rain of arrows streaked in from the enemy side and some even reached our place.

The enemy advancement temporary halted. Is it supposed to be a small-scale team with long-range attacks? Our side has started counter-attacking with arrows and magic from behind the wall.

Right now under Ellie's order, we're holding back our attack. If we can kill all of them at once, then there is no need to waste our energy attacking.

"S-shouldn't we start attacking soon?"

"Wait, just a little bit more." Ellie answered Ann who is getting worried.

Although they are within the proximity of our range magic, it is still a bit too far.

Offensive magic has a required distance and an area of effect. It's dangerous to cast it too close, and it can't go too far either. Even if it somehow manages to go far, if the distance is beyond the spell limit, then consumption of magic power will increase, and its effectiveness will decrease. This phenomenon particularly occurs when a mage is trying to activate a range magic which requires a large amount of magic power.

“Should I join you guys?”

There are still many enemies around. They might not have enough firepower.

“This will turn into an extended battle, so expect many waves of attack. Please conserve your magic power.”

“If you insist.”

As expected, it will drag into a long-term battle?

The enemy that will be annihilated now is only a part of the whole army. It would be best to keep some magic power in reserve.

“They’re coming!” Ellie warned the soldiers.

The enemies who stopped after approaching a certain distance, have now started moving again. A large number of monsters are running towards the wall.

*Rumble**Rumble**Rumble*

The monster troops are reaching the walls.

“Let’s go! We will match the timing just like usual.”

Ellie, Ann, and Tilika start chanting.

When the casting is complete, the magic of these three people was released simultaneously and a lot of monsters were killed. However.....

“Again!”

It doesn’t interrupt the attacking waves of the enemy. As if not minding their fellow monsters being blown away by our magic, the monsters continue to press forward.

Second shot, third shot, fourth shot.

The range magic of Ellie and the others has knocked down a massive number of monsters. Despite that, we still can’t see the far

side of the army. It's not only here. The same situation is occurring along other parts of the wall also.

Although it is a unilateral annihilation, in exchange, we have exhausted a large amount of our magic power.

It will take time to recover the expended magic power. Furthermore, the elves exhausted theirs earlier while trying to defeat the Earth Turtle King.

In the end, if we don't manage to finish off all the enemies by the time our magic power is consumed, be it from the elf side or our side, then at that time we will find it very difficult to stop the demon invasion.

"The enemy force has split and separated." Ellie said after she shot for the fourth time. The demon side seems like they are changing their strategy.

Unlike the Gorbas Fortress, which sat in a narrow valley, the Elf Country is located on a flat field, resulting in a wide battlefield. As a countermeasure to our range magic, unlike with their first charge, this time they are approaching us while distancing themselves. (*ed: lol, what?*)

Our range magic has become completely obsolete and the elves have started to intercept the attackers individually. Our party was ordered by the elf commander to stand down and take a break.

Sati, with her bow, replaces us as a fighting force.

"Since they are going to converge in the end anyway, why don't we wait and attack them?"

Since the enemy assault is coming sporadically I have no idea how to handle it, so I asked Ellie for her opinion.

The wall covering the kingdom is about 50 meters tall, in addition there is a moat surrounding it. The moat is about 20 meters wide. Even so, they don't seem to have any difficulty approaching us at all.

“That won’t do. What if there is an Earth Mage among the enemies?”

That would be bad. Even if they don’t have an Earth mage, a Water mage can easily render the moat useless.

It was said that the demons side has some mages with them. Fortunately, they are small in number. If it were otherwise then, just like all human fortresses from past ages, the state of human civilization would be completely obliterated.

Because of that, even if they only have a single mage with them, they could be capable of breaking through. It is dangerous to let the demons nullify the effectiveness of the defense provided by the wall.

For example, when the wall at the Gorbas Fortress was breached, we still managed to push the enemy back with our warriors.

But the elves, who specialize in magic, are weak in close quarter combat. Moreover, the defensive emplacements cover a wide area, therefore their fighting forces are dispersed.

They are strong enough to defend the whole place with their magic, but in the same time that is also their weak point.

What if we attacked from underground?

It is not a hard thing to do. By using the Earth Sonar, there wouldn’t be a surprise or other problem if we carefully used our magic power.

Magic power is relatively easy to detect when it is actively used; however, I can dig out an area underground and then wait inside and attack when the enemy approaches. We could also lure them in and bury them there.

However, by creating a hole at the front line, we are increasing the risk of them breaching the wall.

We need to be vigilant towards the mage from the demon side alongside the specialized and larger monsters.

“In other words, as long as we manage to locate the enemy mage and killed it, then everything will be alright,” I said while looking at Sati shoot arrows at the approaching monsters.

Enemy arrows are not raining down in this direction.

The fact is if enemy arrows arrived here, then our arrows could reach them too. That is, if the enemy archers were as good as Sati. So far, there hasn't yet been an archer among the enemy who can shoot an arrow as far as Sati.

Perhaps the mage feels like the invasion won't be done any time soon and is therefore remaining at the rear of the enemy force.

“If, you can find him.”

There is a limit to what my Magic Sense can do.

Although it is easy to detect when my target is in range, the difficulty rises steeply when the target is out of range. Especially if the mage has weak magic power, then they are hard to distinguish from the others.

Even a beastkin like Sati has magic power. As for the demons, each individual has magic power too. Heck, all living things carry magic power within them. It is just that the amount that they carry is small, hence their inability to utilize it.

“I wish I found it at the start.....”

My Magic Sense skill is level 5. I carefully examine the group of enemies in front of me... and... there. Quite far from here, I can sense one strong magic power mixed together with a normal one.

The location is a bit far to attack with magic. Even if my attack could reach, its size is too small and the other monsters are probably going to shield it.

“Sati, come here. Do you know that there is a mage around?”

I point Sati in the direction where I sensed the mage. Sati's Magic Sense is level 3. Not only that, she also has Hawk's Eye. If only she

can pinpoint the exact position.....

“Perhaps.....found it. I’ll give it a try.”

Sati returns to her post, nocked an arrow and pulled the string of her bow, and let it go——

“I defeated it.” Sati claimed quickly.

The enemy magic power diminished. I try sensing the surrounding area again, but this time I can’t find anything resembling a mage.

“Well done, Sati.”

“That is.....quite an amazing feat. Is this really a B-rank ability?”

Lily-sama, who had been quietly watching, voiced her amazement.

“We have just recently become adventurers.”

“That is why we are lacking in achievements, but our ability is actually equivalent to an S-rank, Lily-sama.”

“I see. Then I didn’t make a mistake when I identified you guys as S-rank.”

“That’s right.”

“I was wondering why you would want to keep the Gate secret, so this is the reason. Your strength is too immense for an adventurer with freedom of mobility.”

Since the other elves are quite a distance away, we can talk about it without lowering our voices.

The demands on a capable mage are very high. Even when I just started as an adventurer, I had a lot of invitations and even received an offer from the Templar Knight. As of now, if my reputation gets any crazier, then things will be more tiring for me.

“That’s entirely correct. I don’t want to get flashy and, in turn, have my freedom restricted.”

It’s easier when Lily-sama is convinced with this explanation. We’ve been meaning to keep it a secret from the start but with this, nobody will advertise our success.

Currently, I still don’t have enough experience as an adventurer. I still haven’t mastered much magic. Even my sword skills are still immature. It is too early to step onto a higher stage.

Regarding the destruction of the world, looking at the great demon army in front of me, it will turn to reality but I still don’t have much information regarding it. I don’t think that I can save the world just by recklessly defeating all the demons.

Even so, this enemy is launching an organized attack.

We’re going to attack under the command.

It was said that a demon is the one pulling the string behind this massive invasion. There is that kind of rumour circulating around. But nobody has seen it eye to eye, much less defeated it yet. Except for the Hero who killed the Demon King. Even though that is an old story too.

“Say, Lily-sama, about this invasion. What do you think spurred this attack?”

As someone from the Royal bloodline, there must be something that Lily-sama knows. This is the perfect time to ask, seeing as how the enemy attacks have slowed down.

“.....it’s because of an evil person.” Lily-sama said with a bitter expression.

“Evil person? What kind of person is that?”

“The evil person is an evil person. I don’t know anything further than that.”

“Lily-sama is lying.”

Tilika, who was listening to our discussion, renders the verdict.

“T-the Truth Official is ruthless.....”

“Although it is unfair to use Devil Eye in this case, I believe that this information is very important.”

“What is it that Lily-sama knows?”

Just like what Tilika said, this is a very important piece of information.

“.....promise me, that you will not utter this to anyone else, alright?”

“Yes. I promise.”

“We call them the Dark Elf. Serving the Demon King, they are the elves who have fallen into darkness.”

“But, the Demon King is already dead?”

“That doesn’t mean that the demons and the monsters under him were wiped out altogether. One group of survivors is the Dark Elf clan.”

It is an act against the principle of Elves, who are the devotees of God. As one of the same race, it is hard to forgive. It’s a shame. Elves have given the highest priority to find, chase, and hunt down the Dark Elf. However, there are still survivors among the Dark Elf, and now they are manipulating the monsters from behind.

“Are they called the Dark Elf because of their black skin?”

Lily-sama and the other elves have a uniformly fair skin.

“Right. They have darker skin and silver hair.”

“Then they are easily distinguishable, aren’t they?”

“The thing is, it is not that simple. It’s easy to camouflage both their hair and skin colour.”

There exists a chemical that can temporarily change their skin tone and their hair colour. Even their distinctive ears can be hidden by something as simple as wearing a hood, or a hat.

“So there is no way to identify them, when they have disguised themselves, isn’t it.....”

When you think you are together with an Elf, but actually you are with a Dark Elf. That’s a bit scary.

“There is another definite way to tell them apart.” Lily face turns sharp when she says that.

“Which is ... ?”



“They have big breasts.”

“Ha?”

“They have big B□R□E□A□S□T□S.....”

“Umm...”

In retrospect, I have never seen any elf with big breasts so far. And I heard in the stronghold, a rumour was circulating that the elves have a complex about their small breasts. If an elf has big breasts, I'm sure they are the dark elves. So, in the end, was it only a rumour when people said an elf has a complex with their chest?

“You know, the Dark Elf. In exchange for bigger breasts, they've fallen into the Demon King's side!”

Eh? Is that even possible.....

Chapter 16: Elf's Country Defensive Battle

⑤ Dark Elves

Today I learned that the Dark Elves joined the Demon King's side in exchange for a breast enlargement.....

“O-of course, that is not all.”

Noticing how amazed I was with her previous statement, Lily-sama tried to explain further.

The Dark Elves were the losers of a power struggle within the elf clan. Tracing their roots back, they are actually related to the royal bloodline of the current ruling elf.

This occurred several hundred years ago. The Elf Country was not yet established and some of the elves had set up a small territory at a certain place in the empire. Many elves lived a life of wandering, and finally, it was time for the Dark Elf clan to leave the old Elf territory.

Lily-sama mentioned that she doesn't know many details regarding the power struggle, but in general it was of the same kind as those that can be found anywhere else, just without bloodshed and gore.

It's not like they were kicked out or anything similar. The Dark Elf clan voluntarily left the old elf territory. Since the olden times, and even now, there are not many elves around. Even if there are disputes between elves, it rarely gets fierce enough to result in death.

Soon afterwards, they returned with a changed appearance.

They now had silver hair on top of their black skin, and a strengthened body.

The elves are strong magically however; physically, they are the weakest among all the different human types. After isolating

themselves from others for a while, they came back with the strength of those beasts (*ed: beastkin?*) and dwarves. In addition, somehow, their chests became larger as well.

By pledging allegiance to a new God, they would be bestowed a new wonderful body, have an extensive territory while not being disturbed by the Demon, and they were promised a life in paradise on this world.

The promises are true, but there is much more to it. Their new God is an Evil God. The monsters are only following them as their subordinates. This occurred before the existence of the Demon King was revealed. The elves, having a long lifespan, have more wisdom and tend to be more mature in making decisions. Those who were lacking in faith betrayed their God, and a few young elves went rogue in order to find a new path.

Then a full-scale invasion by the Demon King's army occurred. It was then, that the Dark Elf betrayal came to light. They had turned to evil and after transforming into demons, together with other demons, they came to attack.

From there it turned into a bloody struggle.

The angry elves rallied their families and tried their best to hunt the Dark Elf. Of course, everything is done in secret. If such knowledge became public, then it would mean dishonour.

The legend only contains details about the hero, the Demon King and demons. Their existence doesn't come to light as much as it should. As a result, the general population doesn't know about the Dark Elf at all.

Even for those who know, considering the fact they were stabbed in the back by the Dark Elf, and considering how many people were slain, they are forced to remain silent. There is nothing that can compensate for the amount of spilled blood.

In addition ... among the human types ... aside from the beastkin, it was said that the dwarves are the traitorous tribe.

Now the question comes, just what is a demon? Their existence is still shrouded in mystery. That is what I understood so far.

“Are there any male elves that came into contact with the Demon King?”

“There are few males among our rank. Most of the ones who changed to the evil side were female.”

So that is where the rumour came from, saying that they were enticed with a bust enlargement offer.

“Be it their chest or their paradise on Earth. The moment I heard about it, I felt like it was all a foolish thing. Although, this country truly is a paradise for us elves.....”

While muttering this, Lily-sama looks at the beautiful white castle at the centre of this country.

“The only reason I’m telling you this is because you defeated the Earth Turtle King, and ultimately saved this country. Please, keep everything you heard a secret.”

I would say that this country is yet to be saved, Lily-sama. The battle is still on-going.

“It’s unforgivable. Betraying God and turning into an evil spirit,” said Ann, making a point.

“Seriously. But if found, it is better to deal with them from a distance. They are terrifically strong. If you want to hunt them, you need to do it from far away.”

Even now, the elves are still pursuing the demons, yet they have been forced to turn back many times. I want to hear more details about that, but it seems that Lily-sama only roughly knows about this matter, and she doesn’t know what is happening behind her back.

“Please leave it to us. We will definitely track them down and defeat them. Right, Masaru?”

“Ah, yeah. If we find them, that is.”

“They are aware that they are being hunted. That’s one of the reasons why it is so hard to track them down.”

Coming close and ambushing them, with Sati’s and my skill of [Stealth].....no, it is impossible. Even with our Stealth, there are just too many opponents in the first place. I wonder if we can carry it out efficiently. Plus, our opponent has a pretty good Detection skill.

It would be suicidal to leave the stronghold to try finding enemies in an unknown location. Based on her story, the enemy must be strong. What I don’t understand is, why did they withdraw instead of going for the kill.

While listening to Lily-sama’s story, our surrounding area suddenly became very noisy. The enemy force has remained spread-out on the plain, and there are many messengers moving around, like the elf that came hastily to report something to the captain. Afterwards, they came over here.

“Lily-sama, the southern gate area is currently under enemy attack. I was hoping for some reinforcements.....”

At the same time, she cast a meaningful glance at us.

It seems like they are asking for us to be dispatched, but Lily-sama is the royalty that we adventurers have pledged to protect. There is no way I will leave her side without an order from her.

“I don’t mind.....Ellie, how about it?”

Since I always consult about everything with Ellie first, she might have the impression that Ellie is our leader. Well, I understand it since our relationship really does look like that.

“Let me think about it. We still have plenty of magic power left. Masaru, what should we do?”

“Let’s see.....”

Even if we continue waiting for the enemy here, at the moment there isn't much to do at this particular spot. It would be better for us to move to another place that is swarmed by the enemy. Though, it might get a bit dangerous.

"You guys have accomplished enough. It's fine to claim that you guys won't fight any more."

"We will continue fighting. We are your escorts; therefore, we will follow wherever Lily-sama goes. Let's go help them now."

"Ooh! Now you're talking!"

The current situation is more severe than I had anticipated, but I'll clear the quest somehow. I won't leave Lily-sama in awkward situation by pulling out at the last moment.

"Then....."

Just when Lily-sama was about to activate her spirit magic, another elf came running towards us.

"Lily-sama, you need to remain on this side! The King is calling for you."

Perhaps this has something to do with the defeated Earth Turtle King. Indeed, I declared to the King that I would defeat it boldly. I really should have kept my mouth shut that time.....

"Please tell Father that I'm going to the southern gate to defeat the enemy."

"Lily-sama!?"

"Alright guys, we are going."

After everyone gathered around Lily-sama, she invoked her flying magic. Immediately, we descended inside the wall and flew at a high speed above the ground.

There is nothing to complain about since it is much faster this way, but this way the enemy can easily sense our movement based

on her magic power. Besides, it is always better to conserve magic power whenever we have the opportunity. I tell Lily-sama about my concern.

“There is no choice but to give up on that. I can’t afford to waste any more time. Did you not expect me to say that? The spirits are not good at offensive magic. There is not much that I can use. I really dislike that.”

Offensive magic will never be activated unless their user is in a dire situation. Even then, their firepower is below average. Spirit magic was not that effective against the Earth Turtle King either.

On the other hand, they have great defensive capabilities. The pitfall was dug using spirit magic. They also have many uses outside of battle. When it is time to fight, using one’s own magic power for casting offensive magic is much preferable.

While talking, we arrived at the southern gate.

Finally reaching the wall, we observe arrows flying everywhere and the situation is quite dangerous. Occasionally, an arrow flies towards us, but it was blocked by the wind barrier. I fixed my eyes to the area the enemy was attacking.

“Whoa, they are all over the rampart walls!?”

The enemy force has gathered at the outer side of the walls. Having passed over the moat, Orcs have made their way by hooking ropes and ladders onto the walls. They are seriously trying to scale the walls. Enemy archers are shooting arrows to back up their capturing unit.

The elves angry roar can be heard. None of their composure is left intact. From the look of it, they no longer have any offensive magic power and are now fighting with their bows. Many injured people can be seen.

Fortunately, the monsters haven’t reached the top of the wall yet and the monsters flying on the sky (*ed: from chapter 15 – harpies*) are still not involved in the fighting.

I would never imagine this huge rampart could be captured easily from outside the wall, however, disregarding the lives of all the individual attackers plus an inexhaustible army.....it might actually be possible.

“Let’s make haste. First, let’s annihilate the grouped enemies!”

“Ellie, leave it to me.”

I start chanting 【Meteor】 ——

I will be struck by arrows if I poke my face outside so I am staying right here, behind the wall. There is no reason to target all the enemies. I just need to hit most of them. I need to widen my spell’s area of effect. My first priority is to eliminate the enemy group of archers.

———— Casting completed. This is just an ordinary Meteor, but my success is guaranteed, no problem.

“Meteor!”

I keep my silhouette behind the wall, and release the Meteor.

A lot of massive stones start appearing above the enemy force. Slowly descending, they start glowing bright red while falling.

Although I attempted a normal Meteor, because I increased the area to be covered, more than half of my remaining magic power is gone. I will need to stop casting magic for a while.

The falling meteors also hit those monsters who are flying on the sky. Apparently, they were waiting behind to find an opportunity to launch their attack.

Then, the meteors landed with a thunderous roar that echoed everywhere.

The rain of arrows ceases, and the battlefield turns silent.

I peek outside the wall and assess the situation.

All the trees in the vicinity are knocked down, leaving a wide-open area. Smoke is rising from areas with some remaining flames.

“O, ooh.....amazing, Masaru.”

“This is no time to be surprised. We have to eliminate the remaining enemies fast.”

All that is left are some enemies clinging onto the walls and some at a nearby area. A simple bridge was laid down over the moat, which the enemy used to cross over to reach the base of the walls.

“We all are going too!”

Ann, Ellie, and Tilika prepare their magic.

Sati has already moved out to swiftly strike at the remaining monsters. The elves have also recovered from their surprise and started a counterattack. If our enemies are not shooting any more arrows, then the elves are practically safe being 50 meters above us.

And when I had time for a break, I opened up my menu and noticed that I have gained two levels. My remaining points are 43P.

I decide to raise my Archery from level 3 to level 5. Next, I compliment it with Hawk Eyes. I also increase my Physical Strength to level 5. The rest of the points I'll leave for later.

I took my bow out from my Item Box.

“Are you a bow user, Masaru?”

“Correct.”

Although I initially set my archery skill at level 3, I don't use it much in actual combat. I really need to do some training.

I choose a spot beside Sati. Activating my Hawk Eyes, I look at the surrounding battlefield.

My vision is quite normal at 20/10. When I focus on a spot, that particular spot becomes extremely vivid. The feeling is quite

different when compared to using binoculars. When I concentrate, I can even look at extreme details, but I also feel a momentary confusion due to the sudden change in my visual perception.

Not only that, I can also clearly see what the Orc faces really look like and also the other corpses on the battlefield.

They might be on the demon's side and our enemy, however the sight of so many corpses piling over each other still makes for a dreadful scene. I might be getting more used to it now, but I still don't feel very comfortable.

However, that is not the end of this frightening sight. Beyond the Meteor's area of effect, there is a new batch of Orcs approaching. Arrows again sporadically come flying our direction.

I search for the bowmen among the Orc ranks, pull out my bow – nock an arrow, and release.

I missed. The arrow falls short. It is difficult to adjust between my new eyesight and how much I need to stretch the bow.

I shoot another. This time the arrow flew over an Orc's head.

One more shot. This time I finally hit. The arrow sticks deeply into the Orc's face and it collapses.

I finally grasp the sensation. If my target is not moving then I likely can aim accurately. However, I still need to be careful with my aim.

Beside me, Sati is racking up kill after kill, but I can't do the same. Perhaps this is because I'm using a cheap bow, and that our experience gap as level 5 bowmen is that wide.

Together with Sati, we took out as many enemies as we could. There is no sign of mage, but I tried to detect one anyway. So far there is no response.

The archers from the elven side aren't that good either. Now that our fighting distance is greater, their hit rate is dropping. This might be because of their bow. Most elves use bows smaller than

the kind that Sati and I are using.

Despite the overwhelmingly advantage of being at a higher elevation, the elves are still having a bad time and being pushed around by the sheer quantity of Orcs.

Even though there was some relief given by my Meteor and Sati's sniping ability, their rest is only temporary.

"The enemies on this side are relentless."

Ellie said so after I have taken down about 10 attackers. It seems that they are finished taking down the enemies attempting to climb the wall. They've destroyed the bridge too. The arrows from the enemy archers have pretty much stopped at this point.

However, when I look with Hawk Eye, the fighting around the gate might have eased, but far from here there is still a big army of the enemy waiting to come.

Just how many monsters are involved on this battlefield.....

"How is your magic power?"

"It's impossible for me to cast Meteor unless I take a break for a while."

"I can still take out another enemy force."

Ellie said so. Checking out the rest and their level of magic power, they still have about 30% left. This is the point where we need to be careful when consuming our magic power. Even so, our levels have risen thus increasing our available points.

What to do now?

I should discuss about it with Lily-sama regardless.....

"Do you still have any Magic Potion around?"

"I have, but the effect....."

The current Magic Potion is from when our levels were lower than they are now.

“I will fetch some from our side. Please wait a moment.”

Saying that, Lily-sama got one elf to come over and then went with him.

“Everyone managed to level up this time. How many points do each of you have now?”

This is the time to hold a strategy meeting.

“We are not in a place to assess the current situation in leisure.....”

Unlike me, my wives can't reset their skill once they've decided, but now we're in an emergency. I'll have to ask them to decide on whatever skill they want and then raise it without a moments hesitation.

After configuring each of their skills, Lily-sama finally comes back.

“This is not much, but for now please accept it.”

Still, the recovery rate is at least ten times that of those I normally bought. Now that my magic power has recovered slightly, I think I can at least shoot another weak version of Meteor.

But, only one shot. If Ellie and the others are involved in another large attack again, then their magic power will fall to rock bottom. Even after raising their skills, the effect wouldn't be apparent to their low magic power.

The enemies at the southern gate were defeated, however the mass of enemies far beyond that are still alive and well. Those monsters are advancing through the crease that resulted from the Meteor impact earlier.

There are too many enemies. This quest, is it even possible to clear it...?

Chapter 17: Elf's Country Defensive Battle

⑥ Fate

Together with Ellie-sama are the squad leader and a bunch of elite looking elves walking a little on the passage above the wall of the South Gate. Another battle will begin after this.

While paying attention to the incoming arrows, I moved from wall to wall, but in turns I became the centre of attention.

“The Meteor just now.....”

“Seems like he is the one who defeated Earth Turtle King too...”

“Are they the adventurers that was brought here by Lily-sama?”

“That human.....”

“Whatever the case we're saved.”

Apparently, the rumours already spread out. Towards the direction from where the Meteor landed, many elves came to give support, and it can be seen that the messenger is busy making a round.

We are currently in a battlefield. Just because I don't want to stand out, I can't afford to hold myself back just to avoid them from talking.

There is no concrete reason as to why I want to conceal my identity towards these people in the first place. I just want my Divine Blessings to be concealed, and they are more likely to become suspicious of me if I try to conceal it too much.

Ellie was showered by attention from the elves from just now till then, and she couldn't be any happier.

“You see?”

I know. There is no choice but to unleash some flashy magic. It's a given that word will spread out from it.

But what about Drago? We still have some moment to spare currently, but we never know if he will become necessary. Should I tell about it to Lily-sama first too?

But if a dragon suddenly appeared on the battlefield out of nowhere, I'm sure it will only cause confusion. I can't let her summon Taiga for the same reason. As soon as my concentration returns to the battlefield, we already arrived at the designated place.

“Here we are. Please.”

This is the point where there are the most enemies congregated together. I release the Meteor magic here again.

Started chanting 【Meteor】 ——

This time I'm setting the range and magic consumption to the minimum since my mana is at the brink of finishing.

Though, the main enemy forces were already hit by Meteor once. This shouldn't pose a problem.

Nonetheless, it's still a level 5 magic. The casting will take some time. I took a look around the area of impact.

“Meteor!”

A number of meteorites falls outside the ramparts again. Now, the land has been completely burned.

My body turned heavy as I've used up all of my mana till the last bit. Yet, I still took out my bow and arrows and start finishing off the remaining enemies together with everyone.

“It's fine if you want to take a break now, you know?”

“I’ll try to defeat the enemies, even if it’s just a little.”

I’m literally in a pinch right now. My mana was completely depleted, although my physical strength still remains. My body has turned languid now that my mana has bottomed up. Even one Orc is enough to kill me as it is. That’s why I better kill them before I get defeated.

While shooting down the enemies, I noticed that Sati has get to my side and starts attacking too.

The weakened elves were making their comeback too now that the situation has been reversed. The enemies are still advancing, but now their numbers are sparse.

I wonder if the monsters that infinitely sprung out from just a moment ago has finally ended.

“The remaining enemies are not that many anymore.”

I continued my assault for a while, and when the enemy’s ranks are clearly thinned out, I rest my hand and tell that to Lily-sama. Even while I was still shooting my bows, the messengers repeatedly come by to report something.

“The situation at the western gate is more severe than here.”

West from here is the direction of the fortress. Are they concentrating their main strength at that side in response to the fortress might?

Then that must be mean that we have evaded the worst over here. Should I go to the west once my mana is restored? I just need to take a little break.

“What do you think?”

I asked about the situation at the western gate to Ellie who has come back after sweeping through the enemies remain.

“Either way, we need to take a little break first. I have no more mana left in me. Perhaps we should take a meal now.”

Now that she said it, my stomach is rumbling. Ever since we took breakfast, I've only drank Magi Tea at best, and I haven't get to eat anything yet.

It felt like we've been fighting for a long time now, but when I check the clock in my 《menu》, it is still around noon time.

“Lily-sama, we're going to find place to rest. Sati, we're going.”

“Yes!”

I call back Sati who was still attacking the enemies alone.

“Good work, Sati. Are you not tired?”

“I can still go on.”

Sati still has some strength to spare. She has strong arms. I've stop pulling my bow way long before her, yet she still has energy after all this time and I'm tired enough.

“Well there is no reason to push yourself. Let's get something to eat.”

“Yes, I'm already hungry.”

“Do you want me to prepare something to eat?”

“There is no need, I still have some left.”

I don't want help from the busy elves.

Lily-sama guides us towards the southern gate tower. Inside, there is a small room, jam packed with elves taking a break and rest, while some of the wounded are being treated.

Lily-sama talked to a commander-like female elf and we were shown to a room. A large table is situated inside where everyone can sit together. We're going to slowly take our meal here.

I took out bread and soup, fried chicken, freshly baked meat and fruits from my Item Box. All these foods are arranged side by side

on the table.

“We don’t know when can we eat after this, so please take your time to fill your stomach, everyone. Same goes to Lily-sama too.”

While eating, we discussed about our future plan. We secretly talked about how to allocate the Skill Points too.

It’s hard to discuss about it normally during our meal time without getting discovered.

“What should we do with the Skill Points?”

“Just leave it to me.”

That’s pretty much what we can say. Lily-sama must be wondering what we are talking about. We simply shrugged it off, saying that this is another thing, and apparently, she is convinced with that. Furthermore, we are currently in war. There are much more things to focus on.

“Right now, I’m working on to get some potion for us.”

We were short in Mana Potions for we have been fighting battles since yesterday. Of course, we have stockpiles of it, but it’s not nearly enough for everyone in this kingdom to consume at once. Not only that, since the potions have an expiration date, they can’t be made more than necessary. Our next battle is expected to be as fierce like this one too.

“I have good news for that.”

It was said that there was a potion called as Elf’s Spirit. The materials needed are rare. Plus, only handful of people are known to be able to craft it. However, in turn, it’s able to fully restore mana for whoever consumed it.

“Alright, let’s go to the western gate.”

After hearing Ellie’s plan, we all agreed. Once our mana recovered, winning this battle is no more a stretch.

Right after we finished our meal, the door to the small room was opened and an elf came inside.

“Aha, I’ve been waiting for this.”

“Yes, I still have some hard time procuring it. Though, it must be useful for someone who has defeated the Earth Turtle King.”

Ah, right. It can’t be helped.

“Four of it, huh. Just enough for everyone here. Thanks for your hard work. How is the situation outside?”

“The situation here at this southern gate has stabilized. However, we received lots of relieved request from the western gate.”

“Is the situation that bad?”

“At the moment, they are still holding their ground, but without their mana, they.....”

I receive a small vial of Elf’s spirit and drink it. Checking out my mana, I see that at least 40% of it has recovered. The others have recovered their mana fully.

“This is awesome. I wonder if we can get more.”

“This is the last Elf’s spirit batch we have stored.”

The elf who brought these told us so.

“Even if we have extra, it’s only effective to drink this once per day only. So, there is no point.”

Likewise, another magic potion can no longer be consumed. According to the generally believed theory, a human has a latent mana besides their normal one. This magic potion only helps to draws out that.

Therefore, once it was withdrawn, we have to rely on natural recovery until it’s collected enough for another potion.

“Still, why am I not fully recovered? It’s only around 40%.”

“That shouldn’t be happening.....”

Lily sama take a glance at the elf who brought this potion.

“I brought the real spirit potion!”

The label written on the bottle clearly stated that this is indeed the spirit potion.

“As for us, we have recovered fully.”

Ann said, followed by Tilika and Ellie nods.

There is no way we can measure the manarecovery rate. Though, it really is possible to know by comparing the state when we are exhausted and after taking the potion. Well, what I said might sound stupid to some, but here I notice that nobody noticed that yet. Do the elves have a skill to roughly estimated mana inside one body?

“Perhaps it’s not meant to recover fully our mana, but to just to restore it to a certain point?”

“No, that is most unlikely.....but, the amount of mana that can finish the Earth Turtle King in one blow.....”

With my latest level up, my total mana has increased to some point. I’m saved if this potion can truly replenish all my mana at once.

“Why don’t you rewrite the explanation on what the potion can do.....?”

“No, there is no need to go that far.....look, I doubt anybody else will have same experience like mine, so please don’t mind it too much.”

“I agree. You, keep this case a secret.”

“Ha!”

The elf who brought the medicine over left and now we are alone again.

I put out pudding as dessert. I need this to counter the bitter taste of the earlier potion. I still have more thing to talk.

“This is delicious.”

“I still have more if you like it.”

After trying it once, she finished another three plates. Even the others ate at least two of it. I always restrained myself by not eating more than one, but this time I felt like it's fine.

“Lily-sama, do you know anything about Summoning Magic?”

I was in a bind on whether to tell her about the Summoning Magic, so I asked her while we are eating. Just like the 《Skill Points system》, just by hearing word like Drago is not enough to make Lily-sama capture our conversation.

Everyone nodded in agreement. It's unfair to let her out of the loop. Even I believed so.

“.....Summoning Magic? I don't know.”

“To summarize, it's a magic used to summon magic beast. Tilika.”

Tilika stood up, and make Hawk appear on the desk.

“What an interesting magic. Is this the ‘Drago’ that you've been talking about?”

So, her surprise is just on this degree, huh.

“This guy name is Hawk. Next, Taiga.”

Tilika call back Hawk, and release Taiga next.

“!?”

She didn't leak a shout or some sort, but seeing that a tiger appearing out of nowhere at her side surely make her lose her

composure.

“So, this is the Summoning Magic.....”

“Correct. We call them out when we are in a ‘difficult’ situation.”

After Lily sama get an OK from Tilika, she went to touch Taiga.

“So fluffy.....and it looks strong too.”

“Very strong. I can ride on his back.”

Tilika proudly said. However, we are just getting to the serious part.

“Aside from them, there is still Drago. I believe they will prove to be a beneficial add on our fighting force.....”

“Oh my. I wonder just what is he.”

“Dragon.”

Tilika said the word.

“Dragon? Can you really call a dragon over and command it?”

“Absolutely. He is a wonderful guy over 10 meters tall.”

“.....then he will clearly become a strong addition to our military strength.”

“Is it fine for us to call him over?”

“If you notify us before calling him out.....then there is no problem. I’ve heard before how the enemy has dragons on their side. To think that this kind of magic exist.....”

“I don’t want to disclose this to public, but I see now that the situation doesn’t permit it anymore.”

“Then, I’ll inform everyone that the dragon is on our side. As for the summoner, I’ll try to be as obscure as possible.”

“Please.”

It's fine if she wants to disclose the information to everyone. Perhaps, she is hiding it just in case something happens.

“But you surely have many things under your sleeve. Are there any that you haven't shown yet?”

“The Summoning Magic is our last trump card. If possible, I really want to hide it.”

“Certainly, it's unheard before that someone can call out a dragon.”

Once leaked, I'm sure it will turn into a sensational information.

“You guys, somehow.....you've changed?”

Lily-sama has seen too much. Miracle Light at the forest entrance gate, Meteor as well the Flare. All of these deeds are indeed dubious. I'm sure this is where she will draw the line.

Yet we still need to use Summoning Magic. All the talented magic users are gathered in one party, yet we are still unknown. Not to mention B rank.

To think that someone that she hired without thinking much has such a monstrous strength, I'm sure that even Lily-sama will doubt her actions now. However, given how much work we've done so far, there is no way she could pursue this matter any further.

She is going to follow after us later as well.

Next, she will come into conclusion that every one of us' s career is anything but top secret. Suspicious. Just what is your true identity? With a little investigation, she will find out that one of us was an ordinary mage not long ago, another one was a priest and another one is just an adventurer. That would be bad.

Next, she will investigate my power. Just how can they improve in short amount of time?

Of course, this will happen after the war ended. I'm just thinking about what will happen after we manage to survive this battle. If I keep Lily-sama who is also a princess here full with doubts and anxiety, I'm sure she will become a pain later in the future.

"We.....have come all the way here to save the Elf Country."

But I wonder what I should say. I've been exposing myself to danger in order to clear Ito Kami tasks. Even if I told her that, I'm not sure if that really is what Lily sama wants to hear.

"I believe that you have many doubts in your mind, but I hope that will clear it all up. I don't need anything else, just that you not inquire further."

Not good, I don't deliver it well. It's not a lie, yet it doesn't clear anything either.

"It's definitely the truth."

However, Tilika helped clear the doubt.

A Truth Official testimony holds that much weight. The sins of lying committed by a Truth Official will resulted in destruction of their Devil Eye and deprivation of their status. Therefore, an absolute trust is put on every Truth Official.

"We met under the guidance of God, and that lead us here, Lily-sama."

Ann who is also a priest tell that solemnly.

Not to mention, I'm sure that this event is 100 percent orchestrated by God.

"Gods guidance.....I see! So, our encounter is just like a destiny!"

Ooh, right, right. That's what I felt too. As an apostle, guided by God, I have encountered the elven princess. I guess we are fated to meet.

"Maybe that is what happening."

Perhaps Lily-sama plays an important role during this quest. Unless Lily-sama is with us, I don't know whether the Earth Turtle King can be defeated or not.

I wonder if this whole conversation touched Lily-sama hearts. She is currently excited and looks so happy.

This is the first time I seen her smile ever since we first met. Looking at the princess openly smiled with an innocent face plucked the strings of my heart. She was a beauty in the first place, but this.....no, cheating is bad.

“Thank you, God and Spirits, for letting me meet all of you. There are no words of gratitude enough to describe your noble works. As a representative of the Elven royal family, I, Lilian Dora Betty Coat promises to absolutely rewards your works!”

We manage to ease Lily-sama doubts, but wasn't it a little too effective?

I'm still thinking about how I will flee once the situation has grown to be more than bearable, but now that I've seen how much touched she is, I felt a little troubled.....

Chapter 18: Elf's Country Defensive Battle

⑦ Orc, Invasion

We finally catch a breath after all of the serious talks was done.

In the morning, we were at the fortress to shop, and now we ended up in a war. I used up my mana completely once, and now that I finally sit still, the fatigue hits my body.

We've been shooting our bows for long period of time now, especially for Sati. Despite herself saying that everything was fine, I don't think she is not completely tired by now either.

If possible, I would like a place where I can lie down and relax, a futon if I've got the choice. It would be much better if I can relax together with all my wives too. The idea was still fresh in my mind where I planned to laid back with everyone in our newly built house.

Especially since I just got my chance to sleep with Ann the day before, after our long arduous journey to get here.

I will definitely have my way more with Ann the next time we return back home. Definitely.

"Your Highness! The enemy has launch another full frontal attack. This time it was at the western gate."

The elf messenger ran inside the room and reported the news.

"We will go as reinforcement!"

Oh, Ann.....before we can do that, we need to be there first.

This time, it should be tough to fly our way towards the western gate with Lily-sama's magic. There's a group of Harpies centered around the Western Gate, attacking it.

At the western gate, we can see thunder roaring down and

flame's rising up.

Following the Harpies attack on the wall, the stationed elves counter-attacked with their magic. Since they don't have enough hand for defense, a huge number of Harpies have leeway of assaulting them.

“Leave them to me! *O wind! Come, and become my front!*”

Ellie started chanting. A large-scale wind magic was about to be shot at them.

“I'll give it my all.”

Ellie told us that while she was chanting.

The elves continue to counter-attack, but they were overwhelmed with the large number of enemies. Ellie's judgement was correct, by lashing out a large-scale magic at the enemies from the side, it's possible to reverse this situation. She mentioned how she won't hold back, so I'm sure that she will pour in all of her mana inside this attack. Me and Ann are still here to help replenish her mana afterward.

Perhaps, sensing that there is sudden large concentrated mana nearby, they are coming towards us next.

It is still difficult to target an enemy that moves quickly with a bow. Calm down, myself. It's fine. I will carefully target them one by one. Even if I miss it doesn't matter.

Sati too is rapid firing her bows to the Harpies. Together, Ann and Tilika, aided by the soldiers who are busy trying to keep the Harpies at bay. Getting shot down one by one, the Harpies are unable to come close.

The memory where me and Sati were drowned to near death experience come flashing back in my mind. It's okay.

I'll never be engulfed in that kind of emotions anymore.

“Go forth and howl! 《Tera Storm!!》 ”

Ellie's chants were completed, and the Wind Magic's highest tier magic activated.

A large storm manifested at once, spreading through the battlefield. The whirling wind cuts the earth, the trees, the monsters, as well the Harpies who was in lower altitude. At the end, the Harpies were slammed to the wall and dropped down to the ground.

The spell was activated relatively closed to the wall, but with some distance as not to affect it. The Harpies flying nearby the wall was caught off guard as a strong gust of wind was suddenly blown their way.

"Ellie!?"

Ellie who has used up all her mana fell off immediately after.

"No-nothing to be worry about. Though, this time I truly did used to much mana."

I checked Ellie's MP, and it truly has reach rock bottom. I need to help her replenish it quickly.

"Leave it to Me."

Ann asked me to leave the magic recovery to her.

"Hey, this is bad. They are breaking through the wall!"

I tried to bring down as many leftover enemies as I can, when Lily-sama's voice came into my ear.

Not far from our location, a huge number of Orcs are trying to break through the wall. Leaning forward to confirm the situation, I saw a large hole at the wall, enough for each Orcs to pass through it easily. A lot of monsters are focusing at that area.

Isn't that Earth Magic!? The enemy mage.....not here. No, he should be somewhere nearby here. No good, I can't trace him even with my detection skill. There is no way I can turn around and look for him now. The wall comes first.

The battlefield turns into a melee fight. Now under attack from both the sky and the ground, the elves are engaging with the enemy's head on. Right now, they have the privilege of magic stripped from them.

Ellie's magic is truly a salvation since it reduces large number of enemies while making them confused.

“Block the hole!”

I should go over there and help closing the hole with Earth Magic.....no, can't do. It's fine if it was Sati and me alone, but there is no way I will bring Lily-sama and the other's into a melee combat.

If, I leave it alone.....is there is only me and Sati.....

“I'm going to fight too. I still have some mana left. Don't worry about your job as an escort. The spirit protection works perfectly.”

Seems like she knows that I'm currently in bind.

“However.”

To be honest, my concern is not on Lily-sama. No, whatever happens, I worried more about my wives.

“The moment I decided to come back to this country, I'm ready to die. This is not a situation where I can leisurely think about my survival.”

“Masaru, please don't worry too much about us. We are capable of protecting ourselves.”

Ann said while bringing her mace out.

“Drago is ready to be deployed anytime.”

Tilika's word bring a hammer to my decision. In emergency, we will Drago out. I'm still worried about Ann since she doesn't have that much battle experience.

“Understood. I’m going straight into the middle of the battlefield. Sati, I left everyone to you.”

“Yes!”

Sati give’s out a loud reply.

I’m planning to bring the Golem out, but their movement is too slow and I need to concentrate in order to control them. I pulled out the sword from my back and take out the shield out of my 《Item Box》. In addition, I left a bunch of arrows to Sati. I want to preserve my mana by using a bow as my main weapon, but I’m afraid that I’ll make a mistake since I’m unfamiliar with that battle style.

Again, I confirmed the hole on the wall. Although the elves kept on unleashing magic past that hole, the enemies number are just too overwhelming, and in the end, they manage to pass through. The hard part is to cope from the Harpy’s attack from above at the same time. The elves attention was drawn towards defending the intrusion. None of them is free enough to deal with the hole itself.

The elves gradually got push back inside, and retreated deeper in the wall. Since the wall itself still intact, there is still a possibility to defend. As a member of a race that dominated long range attacks, they never once neglected their melee combat training. However, the strength margin between the elves and the monsters were too wide, and there are not that many elven soldiers in the first place.

As soon as their mana is completely depleted, they will be fully drawn to close quarter combat, and the frontline will not last long then.

“Let’s go!”

I continue to fire the arrows while rushing forward. Disregarding the Harpies at the vicinity, I finally arrived on top of the place where the hole opened.

I dropped a large number of boulders to underneath. Ten or so boulders dropped from the height of 50 meters shattered or broken

upon impact and didn't completely close up the hole. I tried to close some part of the hole which was covered, but it's impossible to completely shut the opening. However, since the opening of the hole now have boulders piled up together, it somehow halted the advancement of enemy's intrusion.

"I'll get down on my own. Please seek for help. Make sure not to leave the Harpies around."

There is still danger remaining by staying up here. If they put their attention to the Harpies, the wall is enough to block everything underneath. It should be much safer than participating on the battle holding on below. That also applies to me. Even if the Harpies decided to occupy the upper part of the wall, the one below is just groups of Orcs. Nothing hard to deal with.

"《Windstorm!》"

The blade of wind comes slashing down, cutting every monster blocked by the boulder. After I confirmed the situation beneath, I land down with 《Levitation》. I instantly take out large number of boulders and piled it up together to block the remaining hole.

My 《Stealthy step》 was activated, yet the monsters surrounding me are aware of my presence. The Orc closest to me attack. At my back, I can hear a sound as if someone trying to separate the boulders from the wall.

I cut down few Orcs, and went to the boulders.

I touched the boulders directly and activated my Earth Magic. I lumped the boulders together, completely blocked the hole. I apply some cure as protective measure. Now, there is no way they can break through, unless if they have a mage at their side.

Sati seems to be actively taking Harpies down on the wall as I can't see any Harpies nearby.

I shot fire arrows toward the back of the wall to reduce the Orcs. Perhaps due to the increase of my magic affinity recently, I can one shot the Orc now. even when using level 1 magic, I can annihilate

more Orcs by rapid firing it rather than using wide range magic. At the same time, the invasive monsters went further inside the country at once. Soon, I'll be able to annihilate all Orcs around the hole.

I calmly take a look around. The corpses are all over the shop. Not only the monsters, the elves included. How many elves were defeated in this battle?

I can hear loud noise from afar. The battle is still far from over.

I want to enter deeper inside to help the elves, but on the same time I'm afraid to be separated too far from everyone else.

I still have plenty of mana left. It might be more efficient to annihilate the monsters outside with Meteor, and leave the monsters inside to the elves.

But, the situation doesn't allow me to make that choice.

Several Orcs emerged from the shade of the wall and heading towards here. I confirmed their appearance.

There is a beast further at the back. It's appear to wear armour, compared to normally naked Orc. Its overall physique is two times larger than normal too.

No mistake, that was the Orc King.

Its huge club was filled with blood. Looking back at its body, they are fully covered with blood. Its clearer now that I have 《Hawk Eyes》.

There is still a distance between us, where I can get away easily. However, the staircase to the upper part of the wall is nearby. Doesn't matter the small fry, there is no way I can let the dangerous Orc King roaming around.

I rise up by using 《Levitation》. I'm currently at the height where the Orc King attack can't reach. I'm conscious with the Harpies, but apparently, they are not nearby. Sati really is not pulling any stop.

I continue rising until 10-meter height. In the meantime, the Orcs gathered at the closed hole. It seems that they are trying to pry open the hole, but unfortunately the rock is infused with the wall. Not only that, it was hardened too. It's impossible to destroy now, even for the Orc King.

On top of the place where they are gathered, I dropped 99 boulders at once. All of it centred around the Orc King.

The Orc King raises its face and realize that there are boulders dropped on top of its head. Unfortunately, it's already too late. About half of the Orcs get crushed, alongside the Orc King.

Landing on the ground, I shoot 10 disarrayed Orcs with 《flame arrow》.

After defeating all the remaining Orcs, I went to recover the boulders, when the boulders in front of me suddenly get sent flying.

The Orc King which I initially thought was crushed under the boulders popping out and lashed an attack at me.

Crap, I got too careless.

The Orc King came out full of scratches. In his hand was a huge club and he started swinging it down.

I dodged his assault.

It's a close call since I was surprised. Due to its injury however, its movement is kind of dull. But it still come at full power. Just one hit and I will turn into a mincemeat.

This Orc King can't be dealt with a half-ass attack. Dodging its attacks three more times, I finally gathered enough mana to activate my Fire Sword.

I continue dodging its attack. One time, I finally able to land a hit vertically from upside, and its metal armour was torn like butter.

fwoosh the Orc King fallen.

“Fuh, that scared the hell out of me.....”

It will not spring alive now, isn't it?

I make sure the defeated Orc King is truly dead, and take a look around.

There are no more survivors among the Orc crushed by the boulders. There is no sign of other monsters in vicinity too. There are no Harpies overhead. I better get back soon. I unlit the flame that was put on my sword. The edge of the sword appears to be chipped a bit. This sword was used to slice up an Orc King. This much is to be expected.

I sheathed my burning hot sword and collected the remaining boulders and Orcs. The Orc King especially will fetch a very high price. As for the fallen elves.....I decided not to look at them. They are not breathing anymore, completely dead. Since the Resurrection Magic doesn't exist, there is nothing that can be done for the dead. I can't simply collect them and put it inside my 《Item Box》. Plus, I don't know how to handle their corpse.

By the time I finished collecting the leftover boulders and Orcs, a group of elves descended to this passage. Apparently, the battle inside has ended.

“Are you the one who closed the hole?”

“Although what I did was an emergency countermeasure, the wall was strengthen with Earth Magic. It shouldn't be easy break now.”

After telling them that much, I activate 《Levitation》, waved to them and head to the top of the wall.

I'm rather worried about them.

Chapter 19: Elf's Country Defensive Battle

⑧ Failure

“Masaru-sama!”

Sati came running to me as soon as I get to the top of the wall. She must have been quite worried by the looks of her expression.

“My bad. I encountered some trouble getting rid of those Orcs. How is the situation over here?”

“This area is already under control. But, still.....”

While saying that, Ellie take a glance at the Western Gate.

“I understand. Let's go.”

The battle nearby the Western Gate is still fierce. If we don't hurry then the number of casualties will gradually increase.

I equipped my bow again, and advance through the wall.

I can leave the takedown of the Harpies to Sati. If they decided to appear in crowds, then Ann and Tilika will shoot them down with magic. Ellie is still resting as for the moment. I'm going to the gate.

The number of escorts were increased. Lily-sama is a member of royalty, yet she moved to the battlefield alone. It's strange how she is coming with us, when we were supposed to be her escorts. While pondering about the matter, the five of us were exchanged with the nearby Elf commander. We were supposed to be escorting her, but she is a natural at giving commands. Now she is directing command to the nearby elf to become her messenger.

We were moving through the battlefield while opening the pathways. Next, we climbed to the roof of the tower at the right and left side of the gate. The elves on this side were withdrawing temporarily due to the overwhelming assault of the Harpies. Since there were no elves remaining, the Harpies did not bother attacking

the unmanned tower.

As soon we take over the tower, we sweep off the Harpies in the vicinity and take a close look at the battlefield.

The battlefield is far from Ellie effective range of magic, and there are many enemies on the ground like usual. On the other hand, the Harpies are the one putting some real heavy attack on the wall, therefore, the enemies on the ground can be neglected.

On the tower rooftop, there were many dead bodies of harpies lying around. Since they're becoming an obstacle, I stored them inside my 《Item Box》. I will sell all of it later.

“The situation looks really bad.”

Ellie who was watching it next to me said so.

This tower too, it was one of the target for the Harpies. Like that, they don't have to actually bust the wall to get through.

“I'm going to shoot the Meteor.”

Started chanting 【Meteor】 ——

I expand the effective range as to eliminate all the enemies on the ground at once. Like this, all of my mana will be consumed in exchange for getting an upper hand in this battle.

“《Meteor!》”

Meteor activated, the battlefield was instantly engulfed with a piercing sound and roaring flames.

Although the number of monsters are decreasing, across the burning field, it can be seen that new monster troops are advancing forward. We already casted wide range magic for a few times already. It's about time that they're going to disperse their troops.

“The messenger has returned. It's okay to call out Drago now.”

I got told that by Lily-sama once we secured a safe place. This is

my second time depleting my mana today. This is more tiring than I thought. I might collapse any moment now.

“Take out Drago. Is that right?”

Tilika tilted her head and asked me that.

This is a good moment, seeing that the enemy's offense has weakened and the elves have regained some time to rest.

“Alright. Call him out.”

Hearing my command, Tilika immediately started summoning. Eventually, a large brown Dragon suddenly appeared in front of the tower.

“Th-this is a summon.....”

Even after knowing that they will be on the same side, a huge dragon with fierce appearance suddenly appeared made the elves jump. All of the elves were surprised and amazed, gazing at him breathless.

The Spirit Magic itself was already strange, but a Summoning Magic is much rarer. How on Earth can a large Dragon can appear out of nowhere suddenly like that. Next time, it might be interesting to ask them from where they come here from.

“Whatever your wish, is my command. My Lord.”

“Trample.”

Just by telling that much, the Dragon stepped on the monsters on the ground, spit out fire breath, affecting whoever in his path. This is basically a massacre.

Everything went without any trouble. Since the elves side has known about Drago beforehand, there are no attacks coming from them.

He truly is from the larger species. Regardless of their number, the Orcs and the Harpies are pretty much a small fry. They were

pushed away just like that. We will let Drago run rampant to buy some time.

According to Lily-sama, the news regarding the Earth Turtle King defeat should have reach the fortress ears by now.

However, even if they were to send enforcement troops, then it will take some time to organize and moved the military. The fastest is one day to organize the troops, another one day to send them here. By this calculation, I'm required to withstand the monster's troops for one more day.

Besides, that is just a hypothetical situation. They've refused to mobilize once.

There's no need to worry about the West Gate breaking any soon. Still, the enemies are getting fiercer.

And the elves side don't have that much resources anymore.

Aside from me and Ellie's magic, the momentum from earlier is not seen from the elves side. Worse, unknown to where the monsters are coming from, the monsters still boast an overwhelming number.

"In addition to the hole that you just closed, the monsters are breaking through the other location too. It was already closed, but....."

Perhaps the damage is enormous.

We were in a tight spot, however just one more Meteor will be enough to turn the favour around. My mana is almost depleted, but on our side, we have Drago, and he surely can hold his ground. Will we be able to take a breath once the sun has fallen?

The Orcs and Harpies are not nocturnal. Especially for Harpies, they are extremely weak during night time.

"A, aaahhhh!? Drago was!"

At my sides, Tilika suddenly leak out a cried. What!?

I quickly search for Drago. It seems that he went rampant deep inside the enemy's territory. His body slumped down. What, there is a magic response!? Did he consume the magic?

Then came another shot. After the second magic, Drago fell down, and disappears completely.

Enemies mage!?

“Drago, he!?”

“He is fine.....but, I can't summon him for a while.”

Although he got hit till he disappeared, he won't die from that level of attack. Just, he need times to heal his damage. It's possible that we can't summon him anymore for today.

It's obviously a tactical mistake. No matter how huge or strong it is, he is still a single entity. Without our support, he will surely encounter difficulties to keep defeating the enemies. We should have lured all the monsters to come nearer to this wall first. Like that, even if the enemy's mage starts to move, we will be able to detect them earlier, and eliminated them before they be able to do anything.

The rice has turned into porridge now. Our last trump card is now gone.

“Let's head back to Garland Fortress, Lily-sama.”

This is our only chance. All of us have very little mana remaining.

Nobody was injured yet, but it's better to be prepared for our escape now.

If we can't continue defending and get involved with the battlefield directly—I remembered the fallen elves from before. A mage who has lost his mana can be easily defeated by the monsters.

“Me and Sati will be able to survive, regardless of the situation. However, the others.....”

The demon's army still boasts an overwhelming number. They are still surrounding the Elf Country. As for the elves, their number as well their individual mana has been tapered. A powerful rampart wall is just a high wall without anyone to defend it. I have no other choice but to think that we're out of chance to win.

There is no room for winning anymore. It's just a matter of time before this country fall.

At least, Drago managed to buy us some time.

"B-but....."

"We can't! We can still continue fighting! There is nothing bad about this situation at all!"

Ellie claims so.

"You have no mana left."

"It's recovering little by little. Plus, I can fight with a sword when the situation demands me to!"

It's pointless to continue at this point. What if the enemies launch another large-scale offensive, when all of us has depleted our mana? We can't even call out to Drago anymore. If we continue staying here, then one of us will get hurt. One of us might get defeated. It will be too late when that time comes.

"Just how powerful are you without your magic power? Let's return to the fortress for the time being. We will recover our magic power there."

Even with the combine might of both me and Sati, at best we can only take about thousands of them at once.

"We will return to the fortress and join the reinforcement. Didn't Ellie promised Titus-san to bring back Lily-sama when the time comes?"

"You're certainly right.....but can't we escape at any given time? Even my mana is slowly recovering while we are talking like this,

you know?”

“Just a little.”

Will it be enough to shoot a weak version of Meteor after waiting by an hour or so? But, the battlefield is vast. One more magic shot won't change the battlefield in the larger perspective. Even the strongest magic combined from both me and Ellie can buy us some time at most.

“The elves too are just holding on their last straw. Take a closer look. Just how many people left that can fight properly? This is where we stepped out.....”

Apart of us and Lily-sama escorts, there are only 10 elves left on this tower. Even if their injuries can be healed by using Recovery Magic, they were already in a bad state. After we escaped, I don't think they can withstand the Harpies onslaught any more. Not only this area. Same thing applied to other areas as well.

That's why, I'm telling everyone to escape.

We might be able to earn another one and a half an hour, but what about it?

I still don't want to die, especially in a place like this. I don't want any of my wives to die, nor even to get injured. Isn't that a normal line of thinking?

“Fine. You lots have done a very good job. I won't blame anyone if any of you decided to leave now. Thank you, I'm gratified.”

But, Lily-sama continued.

“I will remain here. I will never run away. I will continue protecting this place until the reinforcement arrived.”

“Lily-sama, we are just temporarily withdrawing. When the elves finally give in, you will abandon this country and escape, won't you?”

By logical thinking, how many elves can survive in this situation?

Besides, both the King and the Queen are prepared to die.

But even if we are to sympathize with her cause, how much can we help without our mana?

Adventurers are supposed to fight with their lives, but there are limits.

Depending on our judgement, we are actually allowed to escape to save our lives. It's reasonable and not something that will bring shame to the Guild. In the end, what matter is that you survived.

Even by taking Sati into consideration, as a mage without mana, I'm just another ordinary helping hand.

Ann and Ellie seem to be dissatisfied with my decision to withdraw, but if I insisted, I'm sure they will follow through.

I'm sure Ellie will fall into bad mood afterwards.

Will Ann forgive me for abandoning this quest?

I don't know about Tilika. She currently has a sad face, but that might come from the realization that her Dragon was defeated.

Sati will always follow my orders.

I don't know why I was put into a living or dying situation like this.

I just found a job that pays a lot, and applied for it.

I never think about becoming an adventurer.

Why did I choose to become an adventurer?

Although it is necessary to raise my battle prowess to survive, wouldn't it be better if I chose to become a blacksmith, a merchant, or something entirely different?

I was guided by Ito Kami to fight the Wild Rabbit. Afterwards, I was advised by him to go visit the Adventurer Guild. Then, coming

to this quest, everything was guided by him.....

I can't nearly thank him enough for meeting me with everyone else, but on the other hand, I don't want to die at a place like this. With everyone, together forever.....forever?

Will I even live in this world forever?

I won't return back to Japan anymore? Am I really okay with that?

I raise my face and looks at everyone.

Abandoning everyone and survived, then returns back to Japan?

I will get a lot of remuneration and live in the safe world. Will I be happy then?

Without Sati, Ann, Ellie and Tilika?

No way. There is no way that is going to end up well. I will definitely not be happy with that kind of outcome.

"Masaru."

After being silence for a while, Ellie cried.

"I will never run away. No, I don't want to run away. I know that it's wrong to expose everyone to danger by being selfish. But, I don't want to feel like how when my father died again. I was helpless then. But now, I'm different. I have not lost yet. I don't want to run away, when I still have the strength to fight back."

"Masaru, I beg you, please."

Even you, Ann.....

"I know how much Masaru hates to be in the battlefield. I also know that Masaru is not of this world, and having no ties to our religion. But, please. Just a bit more. Let's stay here and fight with everyone else."

Just for a little while longer.

If we can manage these attacks till night time, then we will have some room to breathe. And if we can, we will continue enduring it until tomorrow where the reinforcement comes.....

“Masaru said he will save this country. I believed that. Masaru underestimates himself too much. I believe that Masaru is capable of saving this country.”

Tilika too.

“I——”

I don't want to die in a place like this—is what I have in mind, but I'll never be able to utter it.

As long as they feel like dying, an adventurer is allowed to forsake their mission in order to live, that's what I thought.

But everyone looks determined when they appealed to me. I want to answer that trust. I always put Sati into my top priority, but I do want to save the elves too.

“All of you might die here, do you understand that?”

“Even though Olba lost his legs, he still went to save Nania. At that time, there was nothing more that he can do.”

How heavy was the weight of the oracle to Ann, until now I don't understand how heavy was it.

Because for me, it's nothing more than a quest.

I don't want to wager my life on it. I want to be in a safe place, the place where I can feel the warmth. In the first place, we are supposed to take the winter break around this time.

“At this stage, you can't abandon the elves anymore. If the elf falls, even if the fortress manages to hold the offence for a while, the demon's attack will continue spreading through this region like a plague. The most important thing here is for Masaru to live, even

if it will cost my life. It's the danger worth facing as an adventurer. When push comes to shove, I will create the opening for Masaru and onee-chan to escape. The two of you should be able to survive anything coming your ways."

"That's right. If the Gate are not usable when the times arrive, please feel free to abandon me too. Sati, make sure to take care of him, understood?"

"Yes, even if it cost my live."

Together with Sati, while abandoning everyone else, it's true that we have the chance to break through these hordes of demon's army.

But there is no way I will accept such thing.

"Nothing to worry about. That is for emergency. The worst-case scenario."

So, Ann said.

Right. There is just slim chance that situation will ever happen at all.

We are not driven into the corner yet. If we had some time to activate the Gate, then everyone can still escape safely.

"But, when the time comes.....however it takes, Masaru need to survive. There is no need to worry about us, got it?"

Looks like it's useless to try persuading them any further. It's hard for a human to resolve himself for a sacrifice, but once he do so, there is nothing to stop him.

Since there is no choice but to accept that. This eases my stomach.

"In my opinion, it's a better choice to run away. That's why, are you guys sure to do this?"

"Definitely!"

“I want to return home and get on the bed. I want to relax.”

On more time, in the end, I tried to muster all the might from my heart.

“We can do that slowly once the battle ended. Here, I will serve you however you want. Deal?”

Ann’s service.....it’s been a really long since I last embrace Ann.

“Anything? You will do anything I asked for?”

“Uu.....a-anything you want.”

“If Ann said so, I will do my best for a while longer. It’s a promise!”

I can hardly wager my lives for these quests or this Elf Country. However, for these cute girls, I’m willing to throw away a life or two!

“Will you run away once things get dangerous?”

We are not in a pinch yet. There is still room to survive.

“Don’t worry. I won’t miss the time when I truly need to escape.”

But I’m slightly worried how Ellie san defined this ‘timing’.....

All in all, I might have been a little bit too pessimistic.

We will save the elves, returns back home and get rewarded by Ann.

The bottom line is I need to get all the monsters and destroy them all.

A power That can do that. Cheat.

“Our party seems to be more dangerous than I initially thought, Lily-sama.”

I inform Lily-sama, who seems to watch our interaction quietly.

I've been regretting my whole life. It's rather miserable.

"Everything's moving according to the wheels of destiny.....we will definitely win this war. I give all my trust on you."

Fate, huh?

There is no way I'm willing to bet my future on something obscure like that.....

"In sickness, or in health."

Lily sends a strange look when I said that out loud without context. Sati and everyone else however, seems to remember immediately that line of words.

——from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish——

"As long my life is intact, I swear to do my very best."

The oath of marriage cannot be broken.

"Yes, Masaru-sama!"

Chapter 20: Elf's Country Defensive Battle

⑨ The Finale

Ever since that point, our focus was to defend the Western Gate.

Since there are no actual need to help the other locations, I've decided to fix our position here. Hence, our strategy will be focusing on defending this place.

In any case, make sure that this place is under your control. So, said the oblate to me. Since we were in command more or less, please take care of us till the end.

Two hours have past.

We descended and fought.

It feels like we were exposed to dangers for a long time already, when it's actually just been two hours at most.

Finally, it's time for a quick break. I don't know if there's no more room for composure left, or maybe it's because of the mood, Ellie was not taking out her pudding this time.

It's unknown whether the enemy noticed that we were already in a tough spot, but they are focusing their assault on us. The only reason we're still survive is because of the amount of kills Sati had. We've encountered dangerous situations countless of times, yet none of us were fatally injured yet.

However, my mana is depleted now that I've shot down the 《Meteor》 again. My bow was overused, and now the string is giving out. The one that I'm currently using is the cheap one, which can't withstand the abuse.

Fortunately, the elves nearby are fighting using a bow about the same size as mine. The elves bows are made of whitish wood. They're flexible and tough. It's not a high-class item such as Sati decorated bow, but it's still quite easy to use.

Tilika planned to summon Taiga and let him fight again on the ground. Afraid he's going to take some damages, I asked her to withdraw him first. I will have Taiga ready for an emergency.

Sati is still trying her best even though she already went beyond her physical limit long ago. It can be seen that she is currently struggling to release each shot of arrows.

Since many were killed with my Meteor, we can afford to relax a bit.....

“Enemy, not reducing.”

I said it softly to Ellie. I hope she will change her mind and agree to run away soon.

However, if we leave the battlefield now, this elf defence line will

surely collapse. That's why, even though I want to back out, I can never muster the act. Even I can understand the implication of that action. I've completely missed the timing to escape.

Even if we are to escape now, we will barely make it.

"The Harpies have decreased, a lot."

"That's because Sati is actively shooting them down."

On the other hand, there are almost no other arrows to shoot out. Did they used it all up shooting down at the enemies? Normally, the arrows should be flying around right now. Perhaps they have used it up faster than ever since they are not prepared to be on defensive.

But even if there are arrows left, there is no way they can keep shooting it. They are not machine. Not only their mana, the Elves must have hit their physical limits by now.

We need some plan to breakthrough this situation. Should I let Anne and Ellie take up the position as archers? But, even if I levelled them up with their remaining Skill Points, will the 3 of us prove to be a formidable fighting forces? After discussing this with them for a while, I increased their skills with what Skill Points they have left——

"Masaru-sama!"

Our discussion was interrupted when Sati shouted, and pointed towards the forests. Further on the distance, two huge dragons appeared from inside the forest. They might not be as strong as Earth Turtle King, but I bet they were twice as strong as Drago.

The two dragons walked side by side. Accompanied by them are huge number of monsters. Even Trolls and Ogres that was not here before are together with the dragons.

So, the Demon side was keeping this troops just for this time?

"So, these guys are waiting for the moment when all of us depleted our mana, huh?"

“Nah, more like they are waiting for us to be sapped of strength first.”

Whichever it is, the enemy is hiding their trump card till now and unleashed it all at once.

“If I mustered the last ounce of my mana, then at least, one of the head.....”

“No!”

“But...”

“Forget that. When the time comes, please escape through the gate. My older brothers are determined to fight till their last breath. A reinforcement squad was already requested from the fortress. The help will arrive soon.”

There is no way the help will come anywhere soon. No matter how fast they moved, the earliest will be by tomorrow afternoon. By that time, this country will already be overruled by the dragon.

“Lily-sama, let's escape with us.”

“Those guys are not the only one with a trick up their sleeves. I also have one. The Spirit Magic.”

“But that is.....”

Isn't her Spirit Magic incapable of offensive magic?

“When the lord has fallen, the Spirit will go out of control. An uncontrollable spirit will run amok, and follow suit after its lord.”

In other words, she is going to self-destruct.

“That's the price I'm willing to pay to defeat the dragon. Considering how my life alone is enough, don't you think that is very cheap price to pay?”

Of course, there are many other Spirit Magic users in the vicinity, however it's been confirmed by Lily-sama that it's not possible. That

is because the self-destructing phase will require mana too.

If the spirit run amok while the users have insufficient mana, the damage inflicted will be minimal. The Spirit Magic alone consumes much more mana than a normal magic used by human. Naturally, the mana will only recover fully after a week. The only reason Lily-sama is able to preserve her mana is because everyone is stuck on protecting her. There is no way the other Spirit magic users has that kind of leisure.

I always wondered if she preserved it in case to take flight in emergency.....

“I can only do it once. That’s why, I will preserve it till the last moment.”

There are many monsters surrounding the dragon, however, if I managed to approached it unnoticed with Covert, then I might be able to take it down with my Magic Sword. I don’t want to think what will happen afterwards, but I’m sure that is better solution compared to self-destruct. I will be able to escape if I start flying at the sky somehow.

The other head, the Elves need to deal with it some way or another.

“Sati, you’re staying here. Become everyones guard. No matter what, you need to defend them.”

“But.....”

“No worries. I have 《Covert》 as well 《Stealthy Steps》 skills. If the situation turns to the worse, I will use 《Fly》 to escape. Ellie, I’m leaving everything to you. Absolutely, run away with 《Gate》 when things turn bad, understood?”

Even if I fail and die, Ellie will somehow manage to do something.

I wonder how effective is 《Covert》 and 《Stealthy Steps》 in a battlefield like this. I nearly said it out loud, but stopped at the last moment.

“No way, that kind of thing!”

The dragon is approaching. Based on its movement speed, it's highly unlikely that any of us are capable of restoring our mana before it reaches here.

“There's no time to argue anymore.”

It was when I was concentrating my mana on my sword that I noticed it. There was something further behind the two dragons.

“Aaa.....”

Sati also noticed it. There are two other dragons moving towards here.

And behind them, another figure different to the other four dragons can be seen. One with larger body, with wings.

A gigantic dragon gracefully leaved the forest.

“Ah, Lily-sama. There are three other dragons coming from behind.”

There are five in total. As expected, this is impossible. Let's run away.

“Ellie, you should make the Gate ready anytime soon.”

“.....understood.”

One of the dragon is heading straight towards this place. Even if I managed to defeat it, the tide won't turn. Ellie too seems like she finally gives in.

What about Lily-sama? There is not much time left to persuade her. Perhaps we should forcibly make her comply.

We should make it so that Lily-sama parents and elder brother run away with us too.....

“Masaru-sama, that!”

Sati pointed towards the sky. Is that a flying dragon I'm seeing?

Something feels off.

Magical reaction? Something is fighting.....it fell!?

"It's the adventurers!"

My 《Hawk eyes》 were unable to see that far into the distance yet. The performance is that of my normal eyesight. Or is it because I'm not accustomed to it yet? Anyway, Sati was able to see the adventurers fighting.

"The reinforcement has arrived!"

So, Ellie said, but isn't the fastest they can arrive is by tomorrow afternoon?

"No mistake, that is our reinforcements. They might have been deployed as soon as possible. There is no other way they can make it here on time otherwise."

If the lesser adventurers advance on their own, then it might be possible to reach here as soon as this squad.

Ah, the second head also fell down. I can see some people fighting against the third head at a glance.

Looking at how fast the other two were defeated, I don't think it will take that long for the third dragon to be defeated. Then, the problem lies on the dragons that's reaching the wall. The reinforcement wouldn't reach here on time. The enemy doesn't consist of those dragons only too. There are also numerous monsters on between. If we don't stop the dragons on their track now, they will most probably bust through this defence wall.

This defence wall of Elves Country boasts its hardness and its thickness. But just how long will the dragons take to tear a hole on it?

"I will engage one of them!"

“Masaru! I’m coming with you!”

With the amount of mana Ellie currently has, it might be possible to defeat the other dragon. However, what if this is not the end of the enemy’s trump card? Still, to survive while preserving our mana is.....

“Ellie, do it!”

If she were to receive Ann mana, then it’s possible to accumulate enough mana to open the Gate after an hour. If I can get back here safely, combined with mine, we will be able to shorten that time more.

The adventurers party that came along for reinforcement are surely one with a high rank. If they manage to breakthrough till this country entrance, then we will surely manage.

I have no choice but to believe that.

With an imbued wind magic in my sword, I jumped off the tower. The Flame Magic Sword is too conspicuous.

I continue to cross the moat with 《*Levitation*》, and use 《*Covert*》 to hide behind the Orcs corpses.

Though, looking at the Dragon up close makes me regret my decision instantly.

Just because I managed to defeat the Orc King effortlessly with my Magic Sword, I got too carried away.

A large creature over 20 meters tall is running here at full speed.

By the looks alone, it possessed several times momentum of a trucks cruising at full speed on a highway, or a full speed train on its track. Even if the Magic Sword has the sharpest edge, it’s absolutely impossible to take it on the front.

The dragons raise it speed further, stomping directly towards this direction. It’s stomping create a small earthquake. Witnessing all that, I prepared myself to die. Killing the dragon is out of my

capabilities. More like I will die instantly, crushed by the dragon's feet's.

The crater that was created by my Meteor just now, even though it manages to halt the advance of the other monsters, the huge dragons simply run through it.

Right now, my mana has recovered up to the level enough for me to use an intermediate level magic.

But will that be enough to stop the momentum of this things.....?

The Earth Magic! I concentrate all my mana in my hands and extend it towards the crater that was formed by 《Meteor》. Then I jump out of the way of the dragon's course.

The dragon's right forefoot fit snugly into the hole. Jerking forward from its own momentum, it flew over the moat while spinning mid-air, and it's back coming into contact with the wall. It roars loudly when it crashed into the wall.

Taking the impact from such large creature full brunt, the wall shakes, a crack can be seen running throughout it. However, the wall endured, and the dragon fell into the moat, splashed splendidly.



I ended up getting a huge amount of water from the moat splashed into my face. Raising my face, I saw a dragon fit the moat nicely on its back and struggling to escape.

On my hand, my Gale Magic Sword still remains.

The horde of monsters are falling far behind the dragon since they can't keep up with the dragon's full charging speed.

They didn't even notice the dragon here. If I want to do it, now is the only time.

I quickly went on its head. While jumping over the moat, I cut a slit deeply at the base of its neck.

As a result, the dragon sinks deeper inside the moat with a 'plop' sound.

Due to its heavy armoured body, it sinks into the bottom of the moat quickly. The dragon's struggling is creating a huge water updraft.

Only later, the situation registered in my mind. Crap.

The water become cloudy and I couldn't see anything. Swept by the current, I can't determine my footing. My breath, already..... drowning.....

At that time, I was grabbed by something. Dragged across the water, I finally resurfaced on the ground.

"Masaru-sama! Masaru-sama!"

Sati! Sati has come to help!

"Gahah! Gehoggeho! Sati.....I...I'm fine..."

Thanks to Sati saving me, I ended up swallowing less water. It's a miracle that I'm unhurt.

No, is this really fine? It's extremely dirty, and I have drunk a load of water from a moat where there are countless bodies floated.

Forget that, first comes the dragon.....

"I can't resist myself from coming. Even Elizabeth-sama told me to go."

The dragon's neck was cut into pieces, the blood came flowing out of it and dyed the water of the moat red. It's no longer moving.

"Ah, you saved me, Sati."

Ellie made a correct judgement. The remaining enemies are.....!? Shit, they are close!

"Sati, we are escaping."

Before that, there is something that I must do. I collected the defeated dragon into my Item Box. I don't want the enemy to find this body filling the moat.

Together with Sati, we returned to the top of the tower reunited with everyone.

"Masaru, you need to take a better care of yourself!"

The worried Ann ran towards me.

"I'm impressed! Your strategy of creating a pit hole in the moat and luring the dragon inside is not bad at all. The way you execute it is still poor though."

Ellie said trying to calm Ann down.

I never have such strategy in mind. I'm just acting according to my wit. The luck was on my side considering how the dragon got caught in the hole easily.

By the way, it seems like Ellie still have some room to watch over me while delivering her Wind Magic from on top of the tower. We're fighting against the same enemy, why is there so much difference between how a mage and a warrior fight.....nonetheless, I will never fight against a large creature again.

"Geez, your body is covered with mud. **【Purification】**."

Not only am I covered with muds, there are rats in my wet cloth and it's cold. This feels like wasting my mana, but I warm myself up with Fire Magic and took out a dry towel from my Item Box.

“Thanks, Ann. Ellie too. I was saved because you sent out Sati.”

I thanked Ann while she is wiping my armour.

“Even if I forbid her, she will jump down anyway.”

What is the current situation of the battlefield? I still can afford to fight. I should change my cloth quick.

“The situation?”

“Just take a look. The enemies are in a mess thanks to these adventurers rushing in.”

All five dragons were defeated. The reinforcement squad slowly advancing to this country’s entrance while killing off the remaining monsters.

We can take a breath now.

The rest of my mana..... I used up everything to create the hole.....my level has risen; my skill points should have too. I should have accumulated a lot of points, any skill that I would ——
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When I opened the skill list, **notification sound**, I received 10 skill points.

What the.....?

“The quest is cleared!”

“Quest?”

Hearing me shout suddenly, Lily-sama asked with a blank face. Oops.

My mouth slipped a bit, but she shouldn’t be able to conjuncture anything by the word ‘quest’ alone. This much is still fine.

“We did it! We’ve won! Take that!”

The remaining monsters start to turn on their back and run away

disorderly.

“O, ooh!?”

“W-we’re saved.....”

My knees lose it strength once the realization hit me. No more.

“Masaru...”

Ann hugged me tightly. Kind of a waste now that I’ve readied my armour.....no, the battle has already ended. Let’s take this off. Being wet felt gross.

“Let’s go home.”

I tell that to Ann who is still hugging me.

Right. After we get back, Ann will reward me for my courageous spirit. Thinking about that made me strangely happy.

“Yeah. I agree.”

“Ellie, we’re leaving the gate to you. Let’s go back home.”

“EEHH!? But.....”

Ellie looks genuinely surprised when she heard me.

“Lily-sama. We’re already tired, so we’re going to go back home. See, the war has ended.”

Dozens of adventurers are waiting at the Western Gate, looking at it, a giant gate made of iron bridges was about to be opened. Looks like they manage to defeat the leftover monsters nearby the gate on time.

“Ah, crap. We still need to wait for a while to recover mana.”

“Well, that’s that. But are you sure you want to get back home that soon?”

“The quest was fulfilled. There is nothing more left for us to do

here.”

“But look, we’ve rescued the Elf’s Country and all, and there are many other things.”

“T-true. We still haven’t reward you yet. Perhaps, a grand ceremony……”

Ceremony. That sounds like a hassle. Plus, there is no way they can hold one right after a battle like this, aren’t they?

“Well, some thanks will be fantastic.”

“No, that are not okay!”

“But see. Won’t that be amazing?”

As I’m getting out of my armour, I swing my Guild Card to let Ellie take a look on it.

How many subjugated monsters was recorded? It’s too much that it became too troublesome just to count. This should net us a lot of subjugation rewards. This, I wonder if it can be considerate as a fair enough payment.

“Err, I will bring together with us the dragon that Ellie has defeated. I’ve defeated the other one, but selling one of them should be good enough. Don’t you agree, Lily-sama?”

“Eh, yeah. I have no problem with that arrangement.”

“Good. Sati, follow me.”

“Understood!”

I take Sati into my arms and slowly landed below the wall. I can see that no monsters are left at the surrounding area. This time I brought Sati along as precaution. It’s irresistible not to slaughter each monster that left.

We don’t go straight away to the dragon that Ellie has knocked down, instead we take a long detour around the battlefield. From

nearby the road, we collect the corpses that are still in good condition. Afterward, we decided to get to the dragon.

The dragon was torn down by slashing its body to shreds. Must've been ripped by the Wind Magic. This way, there are not much to sell. Maybe we will just eat it here. For recovery.

“Even so, I’m, tired.”

“Yes. I’m hungry.”

“The dragon before. Let’s cook it later and eat it.”

“Yes!”

Sati replied cheerfully.

Now that I think about it, I’m tired but I’m unhurt too. I ended up drowning, but there aren’t any visible wounds.

The others shouldn’t have done anything risky enough to injure themselves too.

“Sati, you hurt anywhere?”

“Yes, I’m fine. Ah, but see...”

She shows me her palms. Her palms are full of blisters. Let me apply 【Heal】 really quick.

Seeing how fierce our battle has been, the only injuries Sati suffers are only blisters.

“Good, Sati did a great job today. Especially, the last one where you saved me.”

“Am I, being helpful enough to you?”

“You’re a big helper.”

“But, everyone else are using cool magics.....”

I wonder what happened? Range magics are flashy, but doesn’t

mean that it can eliminate more enemies than what people think. Heck, in the end Sati need to do the clean up once someone messed up their magic.

“The others are only able to shoot out their magic because Sati has been keeping out for them. this time, Sati is the one who have worked the most. I can vouch for that.”

Sati seems to be convinced. It's really the truth. She has been shooting her bow for forever.

And later, after counting the number of subjugation, to my surprise, Sati is only second to me when it comes to the number of monsters we've defeated. Ellie was shocked.

We returned to everyone and Lily-sama greets me with a full smile.

“It's just like what Masaru have said. All the monsters surrounding this country has run away.”

“Then everything onward will be fine. I've already collected the corpses of the dragon. I'm going back home.”

“Yes but, I haven't given you my thanks.”

“Didn't the elves side also suffer a lot from this war? We're really fine, so why don't you take yourself to restore the order.”

Sorry that I couldn't join your ceremony.

“Well said, Masaru. Lily-sama, we don't need anything else. We are saving this country under the Gods guidance.”

“Likewise, Angela-dono. Towards the God who guided you to come here, I express my extreme gratitude.”

Ann gently refuses the reward. We won't have any problem with money since we've got these two dragons corpses.

No, is it really fine for us to take both of these dragons together? Since I've destroyed the surrounding walls with Meteor, won't they

need some funds for reconstruction.....?

“After all, I think it’s better if we leave the other dragon here. We don’t need that much money, so taking two heads are kind off...”

“It’s fine, nothings wrong with that. Just take both of them.”

While we continue discussing, Lily-samas knight, Titus-san came running inside. She was together with the adventurer’s reinforcement squad, and hurriedly ask around for Lily-sama whereabouts.

“Ooh, you guys! Good job. You really guarded Lily-sama properly till the very last end.”

“Are those adventurers with Titus-san?”

“Correct. Since Princess is hiring adventurers, I figured that why shouldn’t I? when I put up the request for reinforcement, I managed to gathered around 100 people, including two S rank parties.

Wow. So that’s how they instantly killed those dragons.

“I never guaranteed them any rewards. Still, they gladly followed me even though I can’t guarantee their safety. If it’s for the elves, we will gladly sacrifice our lives! So, the adventurers said.”

Oh.....so that’s the reason. The adventurers are elf admirers.

I’ve heard rumours how an elf related quests are immensely popular. I never thought that they are willing to bet their lives for one, though.

“I’m gratified to you all, too.”

“Don’t be. Well then, we’ll entrust Lily-sama escorts job to you back. We will go back to the fortress, and return back home afterwards.”

“H-hey. Are you seriously saying that you will decline the rewards ceremony? It’s no big deal even if you want to stay at the royal palace tonight.”

The sun is already setting. Normally, one will find a place to stay, but we can simply go back with Gate.

“This country is still in a state of chaos, am I right? I will come back once the situation has calmed down.”

If we stayed at the royal palace tonight, then Ann will refuse to do it.

Because of that, we’re going back home for sure.

“Princess, there is no reason for you to keep them here for much longer. Let’s leave them return to their home. As for you guys, you have my gratitude. Lily-sama, why don’t you greet the other adventurers. I’m sure they will love to meet you.”

“Ah, whatever we have done here, please keep them within yourself.”

“I understood, please don’t worry. Then, we’re going. See you, Princess.”

“Alright. Hey Masaru, absolutely, you must come back here sometimes.”

Lily-sama gets dragged by Titus-san and went away. I’m still worried even though I was told not to worry. But, I’m sure Lily-sama understands our situation.

“Your mana should have recovered anytime soon?”

“Just a little bit more.”

“I will help you a bit so that we can return faster. Ann still have debts with me that she still need to clear. I’ll be looking forward to it!”

“That.....I told you anything, but please go easy on me, okay?”

But that’s all are just talk. We used the 《Gate》 secretly inside the small room at the tower. Now, we have returned back to our new house. But as soon as I took my equipment off and lay on the

bed, I fell fast asleep till next morning.



Idle Talk: Elf's Country Tourism Group

“They are gone.....”

Together with Titus, we went out of our way to see Lily departed to the kingdom until their silhouettes disappear. Her beautiful face is wet with tears. This time, it might be her last farewell with the lovely princess for life.

“Hey.....Titus anee-sama, want to go back to the inn with Emilio-sama?”

She was asked by her younger sister, Patos.

“If possible, I want to go after Her Highness, even if that means I need to run on my feet.”

“The country is surrounded fully by monsters. If it was just us alone, then.....”

Too reckless. Even Titus must be aware of such thing.

Titus mana was completely depleted on the time during our escape. The only means left is the sword on her waist. Her skill is outstanding even among the other elves, but she is no fool to think that alone is enough to take on an entire army.

Titus has no choice but to take on the word of those adventurers. Although one of them are capable of using Gate, it's inevitable but to leave the Princess to the human adventurers.....

“Let's go? Emilio-sama is getting worried.”

Only non-combatants have escaped. Under the situation where we don't know where or when the monsters are going to attack, Titus and Patos who are combatants must act as the escorts.

To escape, the Elven Princess is more than capable to carry all of them at one time.

“Maybe we should increase the amounts of escorts, just in case.....hmm?”

Titus eyes were glued on the adventurers nearby the main gate. If

they were all gathered up, then it will be enough to handle hordes of monsters.

That's right. What if I hire them?

"Patos, I, also will hire the adventurers!"

"Huh?"

"I will hire the adventurers, and go after Her Highness!"

"EEEH!?"

There are many adventurers gathering around. Titus thought that there must be few of them who are extremely skilful.

Right, there might even be some S rank adventurers among them.

"We are going to hire as many adventurers that we can, and go after Her Highness as the relief squad!"

"But Her Highness words are....."

"I will go together along with the hired adventurers, Patos can remain here. I will go alone."

"B-but."

"I've decided."

"Titus anee-sama..."

While we are talking about this matter, more armed adventurers are waiting at the gate.

They seem to notice Titus and the groups are walking towards them, but it seems like they are pretending to look far away.

There seems to be a tacit understanding between the people in the fortress.

The rule is not to unnecessarily talk with the elves visiting the fortress.

Titus unsheathe her sword and make a loud sound, instantly turned the surrounding plaza silent.

“Listen, all adventurers! Right now, the Elf Country is in an unprecedented crisis. I want to save it. I might not be able to make it on time if I return now. By the time I reached here, the army of the demons are already swarming the place. There is no guarantee for your life. The country might be destroyed, so I can’t promise any rewards. But I will still say this. I’m asking you guys, please fight with me!”

After Titus finished her speech, the plaza continues bustling, yet no one is volunteering their service.

The condition is too bad, it’s too reckless to accept.

Unlike Masaru and his party, the other adventurers have no means to secure their survival. There is no reason for taking this quest, nor do they have the ability to fight against a monster army.

Any adequate adventurers clearly understood the risks. Even the rookie adventurers can sense the danger by looking at the unresponsive senior adventurers.

By now Titus must have realized that saying their life is not guaranteed paired with unguaranteed rewards are bad combination, but it’s too late to rectify this atmosphere.

The adventurers hired by Her Highness choose to actively participate in the war, even without any rewards promised. What is the difference between them and the people here?

Titus wondered what makes them so difference.

Is it our charm? Of course, compared to the lovely Princess, I don’t hold any appeal at all. But still, it’s strange how none of them are willing to take up this quest.....

When Titus contemplated about her self-appeal, the crowd broke and a beastmen emerges from inside.

Fierce looking, with a body full of battle scars. Together with him

is a large spear and armour which looks well-made but already worn out. His tidy face is covered with a fine whisker, making him look like a real beastmens.

“Look, it’s the Lion King, Garcia.” “That one!?” “This is the first time I saw an S rank.....”

“You are.....?”

“I’m Garcia. I’m an S rank fighter, also commonly known as Lion King!”

Just like a lion, Garcia emits a strong battle aura surrounding him.

“Will you come.....together with us?”

The beastmens standing in front of Titus is an S rank. He is certainly in a different league compared to the B rank party hired by Lily.

If this warrior is willing to cooperate with us.....

“I’m going to retire from being an adventurer soon. But before that, I want to see up close the elves once. That’s why I came to this frontier.”

“Sightseeing.....?”

“Correct. I just wanted to go sightseeing.”

“Garcia-dono, if you want to go sightseeing now, it’s...”

“But if there are monsters in between, I will eliminate them. I immensely enjoyed sightseeing, but I will be troubled if the Elf Country was destroyed before I went once. Hey, you guys also want to go sightseeing, aren’t you!”

““““OHH!””””

When Garcia makes a call, everyone in the plaza who had listened responded in unison.

“Garcia-dono!”

“Oops. Please don’t misunderstand, we’re just going sightseeing. Of course, I’ll be grateful if Lady Elf going to show me the directions.”

Considering that Titus was unable to give any rewards, Garcia is insisting that he is going just as a tourist.

Touché, Titus unintentionally get on her knees and lowered her head deeply.

“Titus anee-sama!?”

Looking at what transpired in front of her, Patos lets out a surprised voice.

As the Princess aide, and a person who linked to the Royal Family, it’s an unusual to see Titus kneel.

But the destination that awaits these guys are nothing but a deathbed. To repay Garcia spirits, abandoning one pride is unnecessary.

“My name is Titus Lufrères. As a person linked to the Royal Family, I’m the first knight of Her Highness, Princess. With my life and the pride of the Elf, I will guide you to the Elf Country.”

“Good! Let’s go sightseeing at the Elf Country, while saving some lives!”

To think that such a warrior is hooked, maybe I just surpassed my own appeal. So, what Titus thought.

Afterwards, the preparations were done hastily.

Under the command of the Lion King Garcia, an S rank veteran, the urgent request from the guild were ignored. He alone manages to gather near 100 men, and after 30 minutes, we departed from the fortress.

We’re going with horse carriages, and the cavalry units to act as

reconnaissance.

Another few horse carriages are following behind it in full speed. It was bad for the horse to continue going at their limit, but we have no moment to spare.

In addition to the S rank party with the strongest Fire elements, another 5 A rank parties responded to the call. This kind of strength in a fortress are kind of excessive.

Initially, the reason adventurers were not responding to Titus call was not because of her lacks of appeal. During the same time, an emergency request from the guild had already been issued, which could not easily be ignored.

However, when an S rank is taking a lead, then it's a different story. For some reason, even if they were to ignore the emergency quest issued by the guild, they will be tolerated.

“The biggest problem is the Earth Turtle King.”

During a short break in between the journey, just like how Lily did to Masaru, Titus also explain about the Earth Turtle King and the anti-magic metal to the Lion King Garcia.

“If magic doesn't work, then we just need to bust it up! Leave it to me!”

There is a worry that we might not be able to make it on time, but there are also other pressing issues that need to be considered.

Lion King Garcia is experienced taking on large creatures, although he roughly capable of doing it, there are still numerous monsters surrounding the Earth Turtle King.

Nothing can be done unless we manage to breakthrough that wall of monsters first. Even though armed adventurers were gathered, a group of 100 people are way too less to deal with thousands of armies.

“We will bypass the Elf Country and ambush the Earth Turtle King. The monsters will get confused. During that gap, I will launch

an attack on the Earth Turtle King. I will try to manage it somehow with this lance. Even if it is a large creature, it is still a living being. There must be vital points. I will look for it, and defeat it.”

Garcia laid out his plan. His S rank title is not just for show.

Hearing that made Titus trembles, slightly.

“After that, the elves need to manage themselves, somehow.”

What we’re heading to is the centre of enemy forces. There is no hope for survival.

Not everyone agreed with his plan, of course. The wizards also decided to leave after releasing their first shot. No one here is capable to shield the wizards in the rough battle. A magician is useless, unless they can cast their magic.

Still, more than half of them volunteered for the mission, even if that means they are throwing away their lives.

Of course, Titus also feels the same.

“My apologizes.....your lives, I’m gratified that you’re using it for me.”

“What, everyone will die, someday. If we’re accompanied by a cute elf lady like you, then it’s more or less a great deal.”

Ever since they started becoming an adventurer, they’re always playing with death.

If you don’t like it, then there is always a safer option. Unless you’re ready to expose yourself to the risk of danger, one will not become an adventurer.

Going for their own death, Garcia said that it rare for someone to be able to choose who they died for. The same goes for the people that he leads.

“That’s why, lady, don’t cry. Please smile, for our sake.”

—I wonder, how long has it been since I last cried. Furthermore, I cried twice in one day. In the end, I just want to see Her Highness, but if I were to die together with these people, then it's not that bad a feeling.

So, Titus thought, showing a smile purely from her heart towards the adventurers.

But both Titus and Garcia main concerns doesn't lie on the Earth Turtle King.

What they saw after they arrived at the battlefield, are five dragons proceeding towards the country.

The army of monsters which should've been surrounding the country now are nowhere to be seen. Garcia and his companions shoot down the dragons, and the remaining army scattered away.

Everything, without sacrificing even one person.

With the dragons defeated, the demon's army quickly withdraw, and the Elf Country defensive battle finally comes to it end.

Thus, Garcia and co fulfilled their wished to tour the Elf Country, while Titus reunited safely with her beloved princess.

LV.46

マサル・ヤマノス

種族 | ヒューマン 職業 | 魔法剣士

character status

HP | 1582 [452+1130 肉体強化+250%] MP | 13475 [3850+9625 魔力増強+250%]

スキルポイント | 110P

力 **343**
[98+245 (肉体強化+250%)]

体力 **332**
[95+237 (肉体強化+250%)]

敏捷 **71**

器用 **99**

魔力 **253**

ギルドランク
B

スキル

スキルリセット
ラスグランドワールド標準語
時計

料理レベル2

隠密レベル5

忍び足レベル5

気配察知レベル5

体力回復強化

根性

心眼

魔の目

暗視

肉体強化レベル5

盾レベル5

回避レベル5

格闘術レベル1

弓術レベル5

投擲術レベル2

剣術レベル5

魔力感知レベル5

高速詠唱レベル5

魔力増強レベル5

MP回復力アップレベル5

MP消費量減少レベル5

コモン魔法

生活魔法

回復魔法レベル5

火魔法レベル5

水魔法レベル3

風魔法レベル3

土魔法レベル5

装備

折れた剣

強化型ハーブレードアーマー

黒鉄鋼のバックラー

エルフの弓 (借り物)

称号

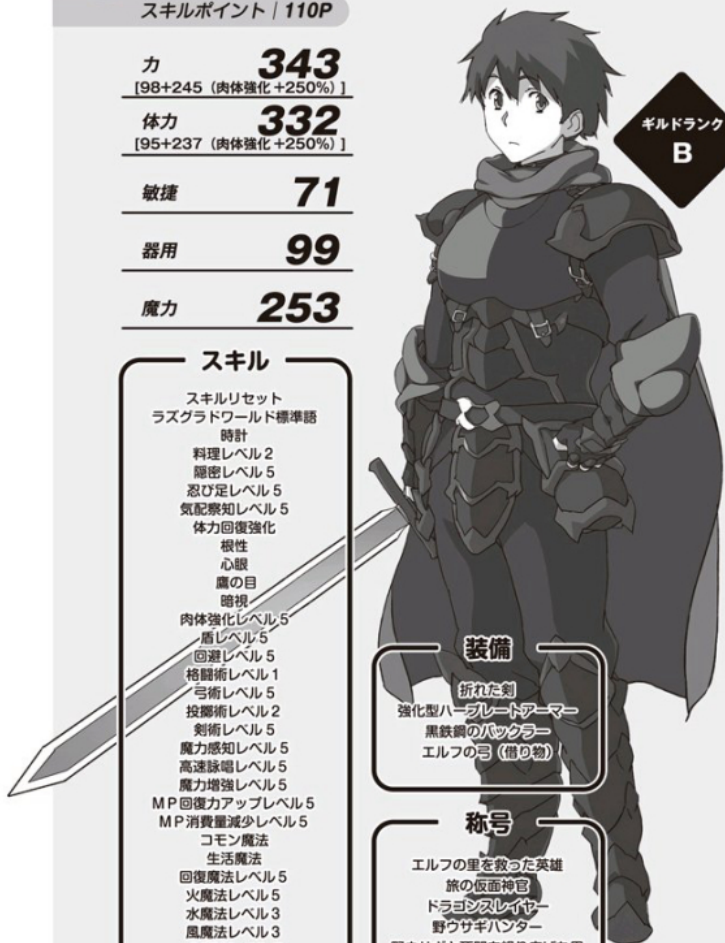
エルフの里を救った英雄

旅の仮面神官

ドラゴンスレイヤー

野ウサギハンター

野ウサギと死闘を繰り広げた男



LV.39

サティ

種族 | 獣人 職業 | 戦士

character status

HP | 1792 [512+1280 (肉体強化+250%)] MP | 35

スキルポイント | 30P

力 **385**
[110+275 (肉体強化+250%)]

体力 **336**
[96+240 (敏捷強化+250%)]

敏捷 **76**

器用 **9**

魔力 **97**

忠誠心 **97**

スキル

料理レベル 2
家事レベル 2
裁縫レベル 2
隠密レベル 4
忍び足レベル 4
聴覚探知レベル 5
嗅覚探知レベル 2
頑丈
鷹の目
心眼
暗視
肉体強化レベル 5
敏捷増加レベル 5
回避レベル 5
盾レベル 5
剣術レベル 5
弓術レベル 5
魔力感知レベル 5
生活魔法

ギルドランク
C



装備

黒鉄鋼のソード
軽ハーフプレートアーマー
歴戦の弓

称号

エルフの里を救った英雄

LV.36**エリザベス**

種族 | ヒューマン 職業 | 魔法使い

HP | 104 MP | 3928 [982+2946 (魔力増強+200%・魔力の指輪+100%)]

スキルポイント | 49P

力 **37**体力 **33**敏捷 **39**器用 **41**魔力 **98**忠誠心 **70****スキル**

料理レベル1
投擲術レベル1
短剣術レベル2
魔力感知レベル1
高速詠唱レベル2
魔力増強レベル4
MP回復力アップレベル5
MP消費量減少レベル5
回復魔法レベル1
空間魔法レベル5
火魔法レベル1
水魔法レベル1
風魔法レベル5
土魔法レベル2

装備

魔法使いのローブ
魔法使いの杖
魔力の指輪

称号

エルフの里を救った英雄

ギルドランク
B

LV.33**アンジェラ**

種族 | ヒューマン 職業 | 神官

character status

HP | 300 [120+180 (肉体強化 +150%)] MP | 2681 [766+1915 (魔力増強 +250%)]

スキルポイント | 63P

力 **130**
[36+54 (肉体強化 +150%)]体力 **120**
[31+46 (肉体強化 +150%)]敏捷 **33**器用 **31**魔力 **83**忠誠心 **79****スキル**

料理レベル 3
家事レベル 2
肉体強化レベル 3
棍棒術レベル 4
盾レベル 3
魔力増強レベル 5
MP回復力アップレベル 5
MP消費量減レベル 5
魔力感知レベル 1
回復魔法レベル 5
水魔法レベル 4

装備

鉄のメイス
鉄のバックラー
神殿騎士団の鎧

称号

エルフの里を救った英雄

ギルドランク
C

LV.31**ティリカ****character status**
種族 | ヒューマン 職業 | 三級真偽官

HP | 33 MP | 2107 [602+1505 (魔力増強+250%)]

スキルポイント | 36P

力 **29**体力 **25**敏捷 **30**器用 **27**魔力 **82**忠誠心 **78****スキル**料理レベル 1
魔眼 (真偽)
魔力増強レベル 5
MP回復力アップレベル 5
魔力感知レベル 1
水魔法レベル 4
召喚魔法レベル 5**装備**レザーアーマー
魔法使いのローブ**称号**

エルフの里を救った英雄

ギルドランク
C